

APRIL 28 1988
JORDAN TIMES
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White House to press Saudi arms sale

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House Tuesday welcomed Saudi Arabia's decision to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and said it would press ahead with a planned \$450 million military sale to the kingdom. White House spokesman Martin Flitewell refused to say when the administration would send Congress a 30-day formal notification of the proposed sale of military equipment to the Saudis, including ground support systems for Saudi airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft. "We're not ready to say yet but we will (notify Congress)," Flitewell told reporters. Under U.S. law, the administration must notify Congress of all significant arms sales and legislators can attempt to defeat it if they wish. A congressional aide told Reuters earlier Tuesday the administration was to have delivered the notification Monday but had delayed the move amid opposition in Congress linked to a Saudi purchase of Chinese missiles. The aide said the notification was expected later this week. (See page 5)

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Paris denies Iran loan report

PARIS (R) — France denied Tuesday that it had repaid part of a \$1 billion loan from Iran or that talks on the issue were linked to efforts to free three French hostages held in Beirut. Responding to a newspaper report that a repayment had been made, a Finance Ministry official said: "Nothing has been paid recently, there have been no new developments." The well-informed satirical weekly Canard Enchaîné said Tuesday that France had made a second payment of \$300 million to Iran in December. The loan was made by the Shah to the French Atomic Energy Commission in 1974. Repayment of the loan has been one of Iran's main demands since the 1979 revolution. Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's right-wing government announced soon after its election in 1986 that it had authorised an initial repayment of \$330 million but says it has made no further repayments. The Canard Enchaîné said a second instalment was paid as part of an attempt to win the release of French diplomats Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine and journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann, kidnapped in Beirut in 1985. Chirac has said France will not pay ransom for the hostages and will not negotiate with terrorists.

S. Arabia breaks ties with Iran

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia announced Tuesday it was breaking diplomatic ties with Iran and asked all Iranian diplomats to leave the kingdom within a week. The announcement, read over the state-run television, said the rupture resulted from several things. Among them were a riot by Iranians during a pilgrimage to Mecca last year and a subsequent attack on the Saudi embassy in Tehran, it said. An informed source in Washington, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Saudi council of ministers made the decision at a meeting Monday night.

Israel launches bureaucratic bid to quell uprising

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — New Israeli attempts to break the Palestinian uprising could temporarily block thousands of residents in the occupied Gaza Strip from reaching jobs, U.N. officials and news reports said Tuesday.

The new moves in Gaza came as police arrested more than a dozen Palestinian merchants in Arab Jerusalem in an effort to end a commercial strike ordered by underground leaders of the nearly five-month-old Palestinian uprising.

A spokeswoman for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Gaza said Tuesday the army was blocking hundreds of residents from reaching jobs in Israel by confiscating their ID cards and ordering them to go through lengthy checks at three offices before returning them.

"Lines of hundreds of people are standing in front of these offices," said the spokeswoman, Christine Dabagh. She said the measures were first applied to residents of three refugee camps but seemed aimed at the general population.

Israeli Television said the programme was aimed at breaking a tax boycott that has been a tactic of the Palestinian uprising. The daily Jerusalem Post said tens of thousands of people could be restricted to Gaza under the measures.

(Continued on page 5)

2 Israeli soldiers, 3 commandos killed

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Two Israeli soldiers and three Palestinian commandos were killed in a clash inside Israel early Tuesday, according to reports from Israel and South Lebanon.

According to Lebanese sources, the Palestinians were on a suicide mission from South Lebanon.

In Tel Aviv, an army spokesman said two Israeli soldiers were killed and two wounded in the pre-dawn clash during which the commandos fired an anti-tank missile and hurled hand grenades just inside Israel's border.

Sources quoted by Reuters identified the dead commandos as members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

In Damascus, the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) led by Talaat Yagoub claimed responsibility for the operation.

One of the dead Israelis was the officer commanding a battalion of the Givati infantry brigade, Israeli sources said in Tel Aviv. Two other Israelis were wounded in the clash.

Israeli censors delayed reports of the clash for several hours.

King, Queen condole Abu Jihad's wife

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Tuesday visited Intissar Wazir, widow of assassinated Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) and conveyed their condolences on the martyrdom of Abu Jihad.

Mrs. Wazir thanked Their Majesties for sharing her sorrow and wished them good health and long life.

Mrs. Wazir and her children arrived in Amman earlier Tuesday along with Palestinian National Council Deputy Speaker Salim Za'anoun and PLO representative in Saudi Arabia Rafiq Al Natsheh.

In an arrival statement Mrs. Wazir said the aim of her visit to

Jordan was to thank King Hussein, the Jordanian government and people for their concern over the death of her husband and for their preparations to receive and bury the body of the slain leader in Jordan.

"Although we could not complete the step... I reiterate my gratitude and appreciation for all efforts and arrangements that were made," she said.

Abu Jihad was originally to have been buried in Amman but the burial was switched to Damascus at the request of his parents, who live in the Syrian capital.

Mrs. Wazir paid tribute to the kinsmen in the occupied Arab territories for their heroic



Intissar Al Wazir, widow of assassinated Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir, talks to a Petra reporter upon her arrival Tuesday at Ramtha along with her children (Petra photo)

resistance of the Israeli occupation authorities. She was received upon arrival at Ramtha border point by the director of Ramtha border police and PLO representative in Amman Abdul Razzaq Al Yahya.

Crown Prince, Gandhi discuss Mideast developments

NEW DELHI (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday held talks with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on issues of mutual interest to Jordan and India, on both the regional and international levels, the latest developments in the Middle East region, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iran-Iraq war and the situation in Afghanistan.

Prince Hassan reviewed with Gandhi the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. The Crown Prince said the uprising stresses the dire need for a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question and for ending Israel's occupation of Arab territories and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Prince Hassan also outlined the principles of Jordan's policy on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Crown Prince underscored the importance of economic and political cooperation and integration between South and East Asian regions for the best interests of peoples of the regions.

Gandhi said His Majesty King Hussein's visit to India in 1986 served as a landmark for opening up scopes of cooperation between the two countries and expressed hope that such cooperation would be further developed in the educational, scientific, cultural and economic fields.

Later Tuesday Prince Hassan held separate meetings with the Indian minister of state for foreign affairs and minister of industry and trade, and discussed with them scopes of cooperation in various



HRH Crown Prince Hassan and Rajiv Gandhi

fields. The Indian minister of industry and trade welcomed the idea of holding a Jordanian-Indian investment seminar in Jordan in autumn and voiced his country's interest in setting up joint ventures with Jordan.

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq warns Iran against shelling

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Baghdad accused Tehran Tuesday evening of shelling two Iraqi cities during the previous 24 hours and warned of strong retaliation.

A high command communiqué said Iranian gunners hit residential areas of the southern port of Basra and the northern Kurdish centre of Sulaymaniyah Monday night and Tuesday in a "deliberate attempt to ignite the war of the cities."

Iraq announced April 20 a unilateral end to air and missile strikes on Iranian towns and cities. But it said it would resume the raids if Tehran did not abide by the truce.

Iran in its war communiques reported no attacks on Iraqi centres over the previous two days. It said its planes raided Iraqi troop positions Monday morning on the Fao peninsula, recaptured by Iraq early last week after a two-year Iranian occupation.

Iraq has accused Iran of violating the unofficial truce in the "war of the cities" several times in the past few days.

The Tuesday military communiqué said: "These violations must not continue without a massive retaliation... the Iranian regime must realise this and its consequences."

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz had sent a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar informing him of Iranian truce violations during the previous four days.

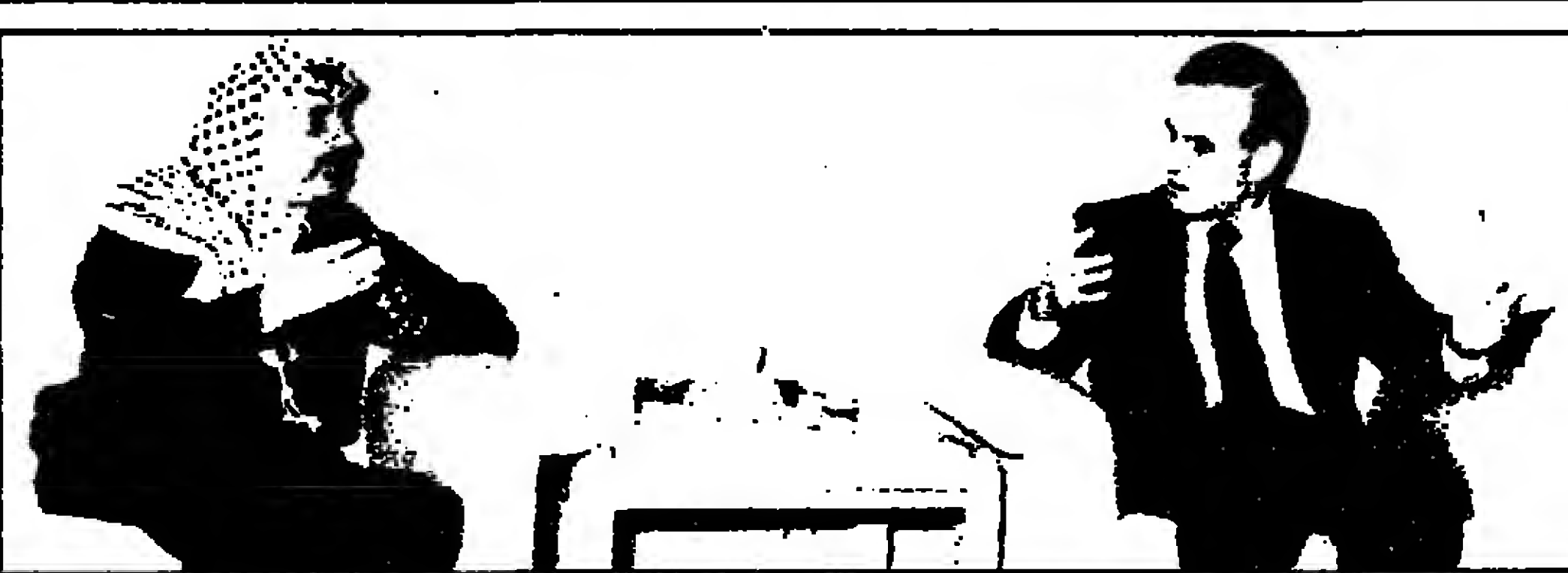
Iraq said Tuesday that Iraq's reported test launching of a new ground-to-ground missile showed the superpowers wanted more bloodshed in the Iran-Iraq war.

A commentary on Tehran Radio said it was not clear if the Iraqi claim was true, but it still showed "the superpowers have taken their hostility against the Muslim people of Iran to the extreme and want more bloodshed and crime..."

The radio said Iraqis should take the war with Iraq more seriously and men should volunteer for combat in greater numbers to win it more quickly.

Iraq said Monday it had successfully tested a locally-made missile with a range of 900 kilometres.

A military official quoted by the INA said the new weapon was an improvement on a previous model of which Baghdad had fired about 190 at Tehran and other population centres since late February.



Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat hold talks in Damascus Monday

PLO, Syria agree on need to formulate joint political stand

By Lamis K Andoni in Damascus

PALESTINE Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat left Damascus Tuesday after agreeing with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on the necessity to formulate a joint Palestinian-Syrian position to support the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and to counter the latest American peace plan for the Middle East.

Prior to his departure Arafat described his three-and-a-half-hour meeting with Assad as "constructive, useful and warm."

He said the results of the talks would have serious effects on the

Arab World in general. During his three-day visit, the first since he was expelled from Damascus in 1983, Arafat also held a meeting Tuesday with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

No official statement was issued but Palestinian officials said that the talks "paved the way for a complete normalisation of Syrian-Palestinian relations."

The officials described the meetings as frank and warm. "The meeting between Arafat and Assad was extremely emotional and warm," a Fateh official said.

Other officials said that for the first half an hour both leaders discussed the assassination of

PLO deputy military commander Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) in Tunis last week. Abu Jihad was buried in Damascus last Wednesday.

Th officials said that Arafat and Assad did not discuss their past differences which cost thousands of Palestinian lives in battles between the Syrian backed Amal militia and Palestinian fighters in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

But the officials said the Syrian government had affirmed to the PLO chairman that there would be no return to the "war of the camps" in Lebanon.

The officials said that the main

World Court rules against U.S. in U.N. dispute

THE HAGUE (Agencies) — The World Court Tuesday ruled against the United States' attempt to unilaterally shut down the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) mission in New York.

The ruling implicitly condemned the U.S. move to close the PLO mission to the United Nations by supporting the U.N. position that the dispute must be submitted to independent arbitration.

"The United States of America... is under obligation... to enter into arbitration for the settlement of the dispute between itself and the United Nations."

"The court unanimously is of the opinion that the United States of America as a party to the headquarters agreement of 26 June 1947 is under an obligation... to enter into arbitration of the dispute between the United States of America and the United Nations," said the ruling by the 15 judges of the court, the judicial arm of the United Nations.

The Reagan administration has rejected independent arbitration in the case as premature, noting that the PLO case is currently under review by a federal court in the United States.

The so-called headquarters agreement, a pact between the Truman administration and the U.N., specifies that disputes emanating from the functioning of its New York headquarters are subject to arbitration by a three-member panel.

Under that treaty, diplomats of U.N. member nations and organisations with observer status are guaranteed the right to operate unhindered in New York.

The PLO office dispute emanates from American anti-"terrorist" legislation signed into law by President Ronald Reagan last December and aimed at closing down the PLO's 14-year-old observer mission in Manhattan.

The World Court said the current judicial proceedings in New York "could not constitute an agreed method of settlement... considering that their purpose was the enforcement of the anti-terrorism act... furthermore, the United Nations had never agreed to a settlement in the domestic courts."

U.S. envoy seeks Taba compromise

TEL AVIV (R) — A U.S. mediator sought a compromise Tuesday to a six-year-old dispute between Israel and Egypt over control of a Red Sea beach strip, an Israeli foreign ministry official said. Retired judge Abraham Sofaer, Washington's legal expert on the dispute over the Israeli-held Taba beach strip, met Israeli officials. He was due to travel to Cairo Tuesday and return later in the week to Israel.

Beirut bomb injures six

BEIRUT (R) — A bomb rocked a crowded area of west Beirut Tuesday, wounding six people, including four children, a security source said. The bomb, made from a bundle of dynamite sticks, exploded near a pharmacy in the busy residential and commercial Barbar area at 2:35 p.m., he added. There were no further details on the blast which came four days after a powerful car bomb in the northern port town of Tripoli killed 70 people and wounded more than 100.

Iran claims success in militia mediation

BEIRUT (R) — A Shi'ite official said Tuesday mediation efforts by a senior Iranian cleric to end hostilities among Lebanon's Shi'ite militias had eased tension. "The talks have been successful in easing tension between the two Shi'ite warring factions," the official with links to the Iranian embassy said about the mission of Iranian envoy Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati. Jannati, who arrived in Beirut April 19, set up a five-man committee to look into battles between Syrian-backed Amal militiamen and pro-Iranian Hizbollah. Jannati held talks Monday with Nabih Berri, leader of Amal militia, as part of his mediation efforts.

Soviet population tops 285 million

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet population has increased by 44 million over the past decade to reach 285.2 million, the official TASS news agency said Tuesday. Soviet population figures are updated regularly, based on birth and death registrations. TASS said the first nationwide census since 1979 would be carried out from January 12-19 next year, with new questions on housing conditions, birth rates and infant mortality rates.

Britain wants Algeria to sign hijack treaty

LONDON (AP) — Britain urged Algeria Tuesday to sign an international convention against hijacking, Foreign Office Minister David Mellor said. Mellor said the pact during 45 minutes of "amicable and constructive" talks with Algeria's Ambassador to Britain Ahmad Lahdi. Lahdi requested the meeting following Mellor's strong comments about the 16-day hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner which ended April 20 in Algeria. Mellor has criticised the hijackers to go free and warned they could strike again. Mellor urged Algeria to sign the Hague convention on hijacking, which includes a clause declaring that hijacked planes should not be allowed to take off.

Cyprus casts cloud over 'spirit of Davos'

ANKARA (R) — Bitter wrangling over divided Cyprus is threatening to wipe out goodwill generated between NATO members Turkey and Greece since their historic rapprochement in January, political sources said Tuesday.

They said reconciliation efforts, after three decades of enmity over Cyprus and Aegean sea rights, were faltering and that action was needed to sustain the fragile "spirit of Davos."

Turkey Monday refused to attend a meeting of the European Community's (EC) association council in Luxembourg after Greece persuaded its EC partners to include a reference to Cyprus in the opening address.

The breakaway Turkish republic of North Cyprus this month ordered visitors from the Greek Cypriot south to show passports and have them stamped, in a move to demonstrate its inde-

pendence which only Ankara recognises. "I hope so" was Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's cautious reply when Reuters asked if rapprochement could be kept on track.

This contrasted with euphoria after his initial talks with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu in Davos, Switzerland.

Theodoros Pangalos, Greece's minister for EC affairs, told reporters in Luxembourg that Turkey's refusal to take part in formal economic talks with the community Monday evening was unacceptable.

Pangalos said: "Turkey has difficulty understanding how we work in the community. It is not acceptable to say you will not listen. That is undemocratic. You can say you do not accept it, but you do not have the right to tell the other side what it can and cannot say."

Kabul government stages show of military muscles

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghan President Najibullah staged a show of strength Tuesday, displaying the latest Soviet tanks and weaponry in a huge parade which signalled determination to stay in power after Moscow starts pulling its forces out of his country next month.

Crowds of people were brought in by bus from all over Kabul for the annual revolution anniversary parade.

Soviet helicopter gunships and Mig fighters roared overhead as Najibullah watched units of Afghan soldiers in a March reminiscent of Red Square parades in Moscow.

Ten Soviet T62 tanks, according to diplomats on show in the parade for the first time, were among armoured personnel carriers and trucks which rumbled across the parade ground.

Western diplomats had pre-

dicted that rebels, who have vowed to topple Najibullah, would try to disrupt celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the communist takeover in Afghanistan.

But, although a bomb could have been lobbed by any one of hundreds of thousands of citizens who marched unenthusiastically after the parade, the spectacle passed off peacefully.

Western diplomats said they were surprised Moscow had sent a relatively low-level official to the parade.

Addressing the Kabul parade, the Afghan defence minister vowed Tuesday to continue the fight to defend the country's revolution against the Mujahideen.

Lieutenant General Mohammad Rafi said: "Our people are tired of the war, they need peace."

But referring to the Mujahi-

deen's determination to overthrow the government in Kabul, he added: "Our army is ready to fight for peace and territory — we will never allow the opposition to put their dirty plan into action."

Meanwhile Soviet forces are beginning to withdraw from eastern Afghanistan, where the rebel Mujahideen have taken several posts since the signing of the Geneva accord. Western diplomatic sources said in Islamabad.

The sources, quoted by the AP the Red Army also has begun transporting wrecked vehicles back to the Soviet Union, apparently to prevent them from being salvaged by the insurgents.

Under the Geneva agreement signed April 14, the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops are to start leaving Afghanistan May 15.

Moscow also kept pumping military supplies south of Kabul

last week in a move probably aimed at heading off attacks there before the withdrawal, diplomats quoted by Reuters said.

A large number of convoys carrying military supplies moved last week from Kabul to the southern province of Logar, bordering Pakistan, which provides a haven for the Mujahideen and three million refugees, the Pakistan-based diplomats said.

A massive convoy of hundreds of armoured vehicles and rocket launchers travelled that route April 11.

The United States Monday dis-

paraged a proposal by Najibullah for improved relations between the two governments.

State Department spokes-

woman Phyllis Oakley said Washington did not accept Najibullah's regime in Kabul as being Afghanistan's legitimate government.

The desert blooms

The Jordanian government is encouraging the private sector to invest in agricultural projects in the southern part of the Kingdom in order to reduce its imports of agricultural products and revive the semi-arid area. Jordan Times reporter Salameh Ne'matt visited Wadi Rum in an attempt to assess the progress of pioneers in this direction. This is the first of a three-part series on the subject.

IT WAS during the winter of 1979-80 that an archaeological and epigraphic survey of Jordan's southern desert discovered the first of what has proved to be an abundant hoard of ancient rock drawings and inscriptions. The enormous number of these finds reveals that an area once considered totally barren is, in fact, full of graphic evidence of man's response to his environment. The survey team now is quite sure that about 2,000 years ago the region was demographically very different, and that the rock graffiti was largely the work of people living in settled communities rather than that of desert nomads.

Today, about 2,000 years later, a group of private entrepreneurs are embarking on a mission that may eventually reverse the process and transform this stark, spectacular, and harshly arid land into a hospitable region where human life can prosper, again.

A handful of private sector farming companies have decided to take up the challenge and make this arid region productive, perhaps for the first time in hundreds of years. They are, in effect, making the desert bloom. The government is encouraging private firms to develop state-owned land and thereby increase agricultural output and animal wealth in return for pledges to facilitate their endeavours and offer them incentives.

The Ministry of Agriculture has been leasing land to private companies for a nominal annual fee to encourage these firms to develop that land for a period extending 25 years. The ministry also offers a two year grace period to allow these companies

to set up installations for their projects.

Easy lease terms

Under the terms of the lease, an investor should provide plans for raising livestock and cultivating land through irrigation projects on an area of at least 5,000 dunums. Also, an investor should prove to be financially capable of embarking on such projects and must present a feasibility study of the proposed scheme to the Ministry of Agriculture.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, state-owned land can be leased to individuals, companies, cooperative societies or other institutions approved by the government and all can enjoy the incentives, exemptions and services offered by the ministry. But those who undertake the development of agricultural land cannot recommit the work to others or use the land for other purposes throughout the lease term.

The government charges investors 100 fils per dunum per year throughout the period of the lease reaching 25 years.

The scheme to lease land to the public is designed to help the country increase its production of cereals and lean meat, both of which are in great demand, and also to help the Kingdom achieve self-sufficiency in food supplies in accordance with the objectives of the 1986-1990 five-year development plan.

The implementation of these projects, the ministry says, will no doubt increase the country's agricultural expertise, especially through utilising high technology, and this will have its positive impact on Jordan's social and

economic development as a whole and will also stem desertification.

The presence of underground water in the Disi and Sahi Al Suwwan regions encouraged the government to embark on these projects. Altogether, the government hopes to develop 200,000 dunums of semi-desert land in the first stage.

The government stipulated that the leased land should be used for raising livestock, growing crops, animal feed and cereals, but it is up to the investors to determine the amount of land for each purpose.

The Rum Agricultural Company is one of the pioneer firms operating in the Wadi Rum area. The company is one of the first to take up the challenge — against rough terrain, government bureaucracy and rigid laws — to produce at rates that make their work worthwhile.

Farm manager Maher Affouneh said that water was the key element for the feasibility of any farming project. "It was our first priority when we took up the project," Affouneh said. "It is the most essential, while everything else is secondary."

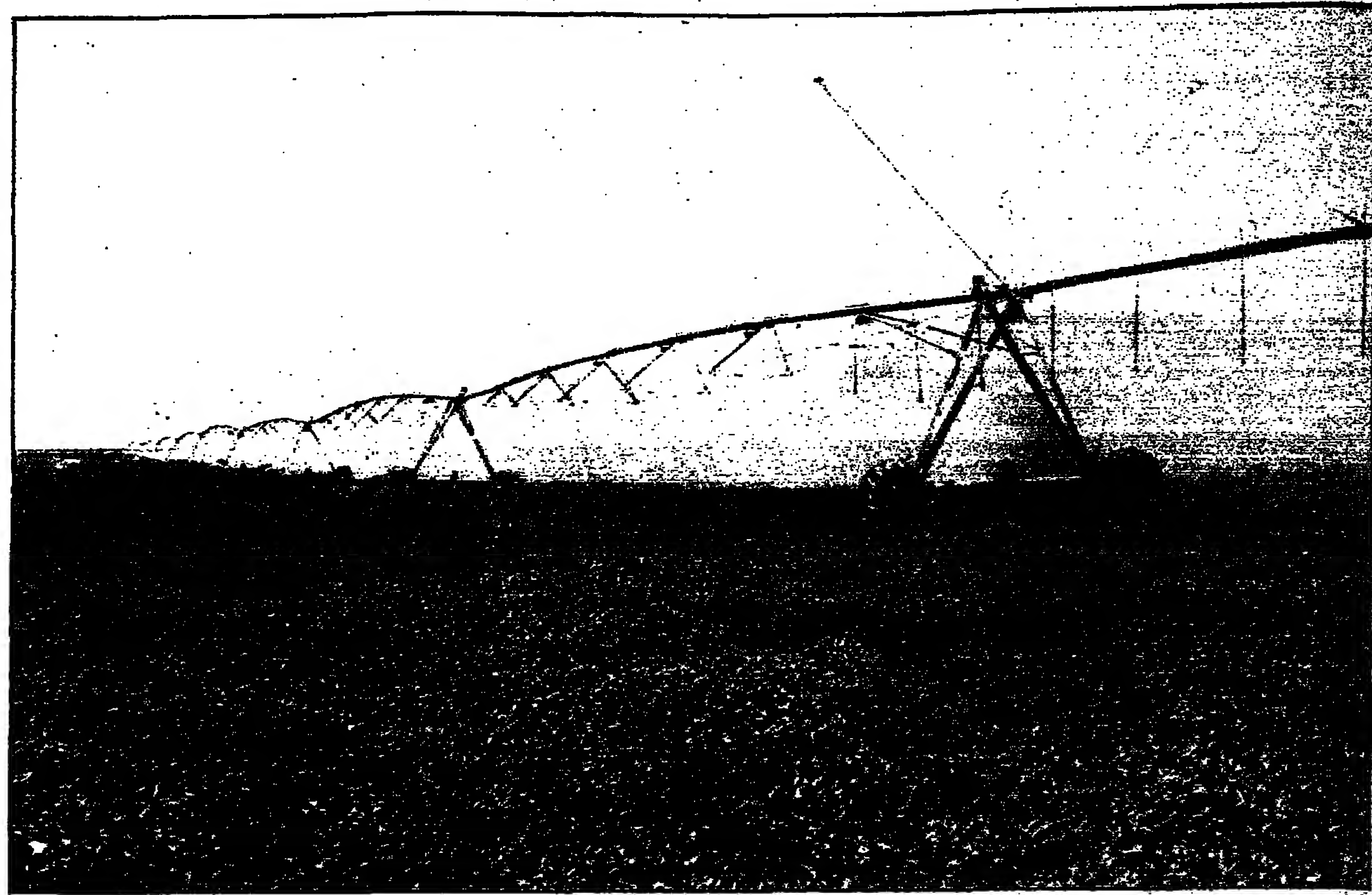
He said that many believed that ground water reserves extended underground between Jordan and Saudi Arabia. The theory is that thousands of years ago, European mountain snow melted and created the present underground water resources.

Government started the scheme

Ground water in Wadi Rum was discovered in Jordan in the early sixties. Through the Ministry of Agriculture, the government established 20 years ago Al Disi farming project after digging wells in cooperation with an Italian company.

After establishing most of the basic infrastructure in the early eighties, the government decided to pull out and make room for the private sector which it considers more efficient in this line of business.

The Rum Agricultural Com-



The central pivot system, the latest in irrigation technology that fights the desert

(Photos by Salameh Ne'matt)

pany has leased 50,000 dunums and has cultivated more than half of this space in the Manasir and the Suwwan areas which are 20 kilometres apart.

Iyad Abu Ali, deputy farm manager says that when the company joined first took over the project from the government, "little did we know that there was more work that remained to be done than meets the eye." He explained that storage rooms, farming equipment and water wells needed improvement and expansion.

One of the main features of the project is the central pivot irrigation system used at the Manasir and Suwwan projects as well as other projects in Mudawwara. Each system covers 50 hectares (about 600 dunums).

In Manasir and Suwwan there are about 38 central pivots that operate on electricity supplied by the Jordan Electricity Authority.

Demonstrating the effectiveness of the central pivot system, Abu Ali said that his company used to produce 300 kilograms of wheat per dunum of rain-fed land compared to an expected 700 kilograms per dunum with the central pivot system, which guarantees better production through the utilisation of scientific irrigation methods and the proper use of fertilisers. The harvest of wheat begins near the end of May and early June.

The Rum Agricultural Company employs nearly 150 workers while an affiliate company operating in Tabouk, Saudi Arabia, employs about 1,200 workers.

The main restriction put by government over the work of this project is that it should not compete with the small farmers of the Jordan Valley. That is why the Wadi Rum farmers are restricted to cultivating different produce such as wheat, water melons, onions and garlic.

Most of the company's maintenance work is done on the project site itself with experienced mechanics and technicians ready at hand 24 hours in the case of an emergency. "We cannot afford to wait for a technician to come from Amman or Aqaba."

Electricity for the project is sold to the company based on industrial rates. Most of the equipment, such as tractors and other farming vehicles, are imported from the United States or Europe.

The company has embarked on a new project of cultivating land for the production of fruit trees such as apples, grapes, peaches, apricot and nectarine. The newly-cultivated area covers 5,000 dunums.

The process of cultivating the land is not easy. A bulldozer ploughs the designated land at a depth of 1.5 metres in a crisscross manner. The soil is then turned upside down with the use of equipment designed for this purpose, before the soil is washed so that salts go down and the process of desalination is completed. Finally comes the levelling down of the land for irrigation purposes.

The project director explained that after the problem of securing

enough water, comes the problem of providing adequate energy to keep all the equipment running and everything in working order.

According to Affouneh, the most formidable task in the process of reclaiming the land was building the infrastructure and maintaining the ground water wells in a good working order.

In the Manasir and Suwwan areas, 15,000 dunums of wheat were cultivated last year with an average of 4.6 tonnes of wheat per hectare with an expectation of

eventually increasing the production to seven tonnes per hectare. This year 15,200 dunums were cultivated with wheat which are expected to produce six tonnes per hectare due to a better water situation. The same applies to the potato produce.

Such projects are expected to gradually reduce the quantities of Jordan's imports from Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and Turkey.

The Rum Agricultural Company has employed the services of consultant companies to explore

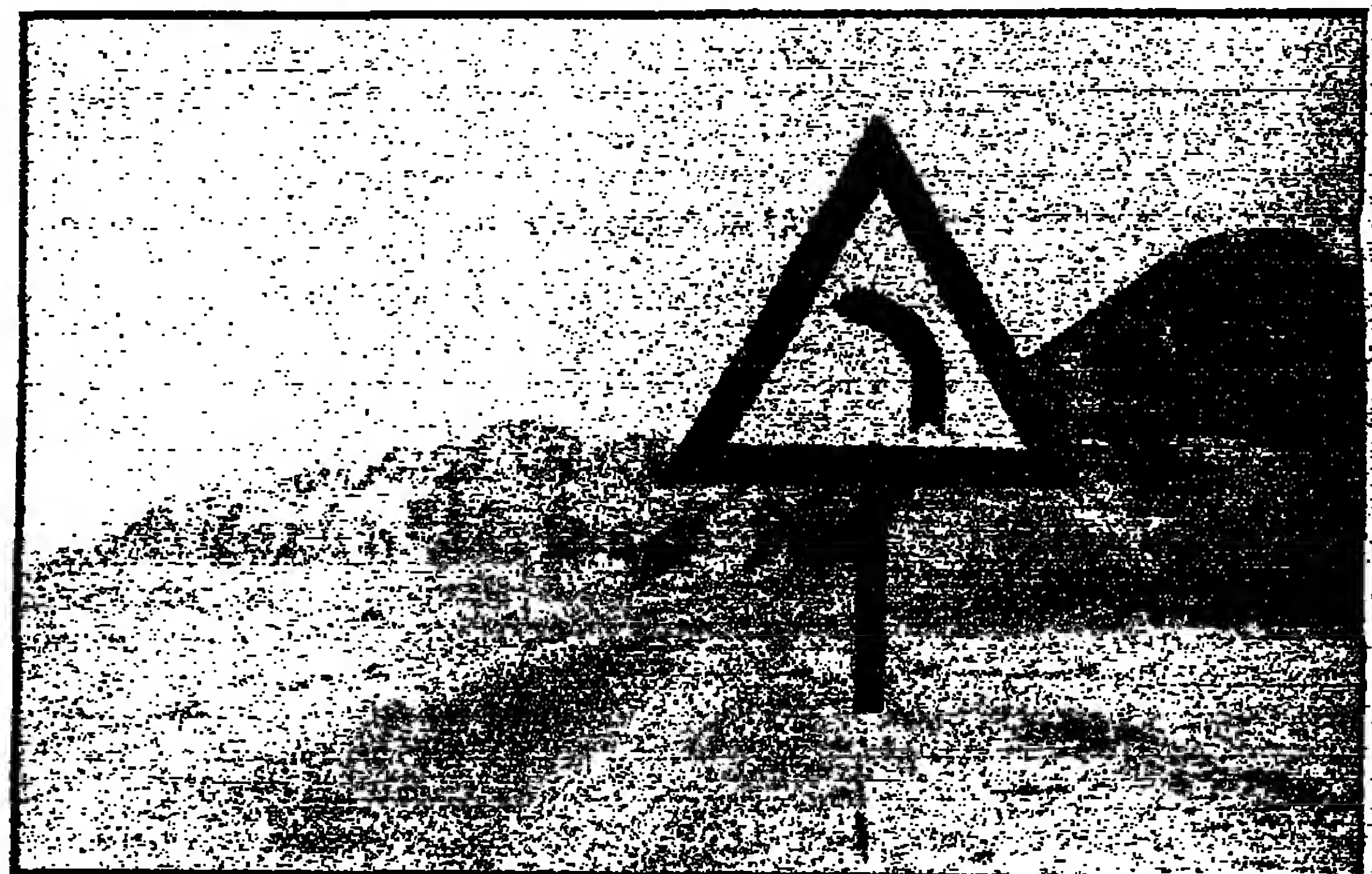
ways to increase the yield of certain farm products cultivated in the Wadi Rum area. These consultancy firms train Jordanian engineers, technicians, operators and irrigators.

The central pivot irrigation system is a new method in Jordan which is widely used some parts of the United States and in Saudi Arabia.

The project's main duty is to carry out a commercial operation that at the same time satisfies shortages in the local market.



A wheat field contrasts sharply with the arid mountains of Wadi Rum in the backdrop



Signalling a turn in the area's future

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
14:00	Koran
14:20	Programme review
14:25	Cartoons
15:05	Children's series
15:25	Religious programme
15:50	Thousand and One Nights
16:15	Arabic play
17:10	Cooking programme
17:20	Religious programme
17:50	Health programme
18:00	Arabic series
18:50	Koranic contest
19:00	Religious programme
19:25	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Puzzles from all over the world
22:00	Historical series
23:00	News summary in Arabic
23:10	Arabic series
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Les Miserables, eps. 1
19:00	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui En Jordanie
19:45	News in Hebrew
20:00	Sports Magazine
20:30	News in Arabic
20:50	The Spectacular World of Guinness Records
21:00	Hooperman (comedy series)
21:30	Tales of the Unexpected
22:00	News in English
22:20	Napoleon and Josephine (A Love Story)
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 88.0 KHz, SW	
Tel: 77111-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsdesk
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:05	Morning Show Cont.
11:00	30 Minute Theatre
11:30	Songs from Movies
12:00	News Summary
12:05	Readings
12:30	Pop Session
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Instrumentals
14:30	The Young Sound
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News in Summary
16:05	Instrumentals
16:30	Old Favourites
17:00	Jordan Weekly
BBC WORLD SERVICE	
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07:00	Newsdesk 07:30 Time for Verse
07:40	Book Choice 07:45 Reflections
07:50	Financial News 08:00 World News 08:05 24 Hours: News Summary
08:30	Report on Religion 08:45 The World Today 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30
10:00	Meridian 10:00 World News 10:09
10:30	Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
10:50	Development '88 11:00 World News 11:09 Reflections 11:15 Classical Record Review 11:30 My Word 12:00
12:00	World News 12:09 British Press Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30
12:30	Financial News followed by Sports Roundup 12:45 Folk in Britain 13:00
13:00	News Summary followed by Omnibus 13:30 Jazz Score 14:00 World News 14:09 News about Britain 14:15 Time for Verse 14:25 A Letter from Wales
14:30	Meridian 15:00 Newsdesk 15:15 Great Love Duets 15:25 The Farming World 15:45 Sports Roundup 16:00 World News 16:09 Twenty-Four
16:00	Hours: News Summary 16:30 Development '88 17:00 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News 17:45 Report on Religion 18:00 Radio Newsdesk
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24:00	News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of photographs of Jordan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

★ The British Council is showing an exhibition of work by British illustrators. There is also a continuous showing of the video "7 Illustrators at Work" throughout the exhibition.

★ Book and Computer exhibition at Zarqa Community College.

★ Plastic Art Festival by 30 Jordanian and Arab artists at Tower Building.

★ Permanent book exhibition, at Tower Building, Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle.

★ Annual school exhibition at Noor Al Hussein Secondary Girls School, Karak.

★ National Book and Audiovisual exhibition at Vocational Training School, Ain Al Fasha.

FILM

★ "Manon Des Sources" (1986) at 8:30 p.m., French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 661026/7
American Centre .. Tel. 644371
British Council .. Tel. 641520
French Cultural Centre .. Tel. 636147/8
Goethe Institute .. Tel. 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre .. Tel. 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre .. Tel. 620409
Turkish Cultural Centre .. Tel. 639777
Haya Arts Centre .. Tel. 665195
Husseini Youth City .. Tel. 667181/6
Y.W.C.A. .. Tel. 664251
Amman Municipal Library .. Tel. 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library .. Tel. 843555

MUSEUMS

★ "Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

11:00 a.m. Closed on Friday.

11:00 a.m. Closed on Friday. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 631760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphian Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweideh. Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. Tel. 661757.

Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic). Jabal Luweideh, mass in Italian language, most every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman. Tel. 678906.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331.

Assyrian International Church (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 67534.

Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m., Rev. N. Smir, tel. 811295.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

10:15 Agaba (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 Damascus (RJ)
11:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:30 Kuwait (RJ)
11:45 Athens (RJ)
11:50 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
12:05 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
19:15 London, Geneva (RJ)
19:30 Madrid, Belgrade (RJ)
19:45 Bangkok (RJ)
19:45 Riyadh (RJ)
00:25 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

08:00 Karachi (PK)
10:35 Cairo (MS)
11:40 Rome (AZ)
13:15 Sanaa, Jeddah (YF)
13:20 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
13:25 Kuwait (KU)
14:35 Jeddah, Medina (SV)
16:00 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
22:35 Paris, Damascus (AF)
22:55 Tripoli, Damascus (PK)

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

08:00 Agaba (RJ)
12:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:30 Athens (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, London (RJ)
13:30 Cairo (RJ)
14:30 Riyadh (RJ)
20:35 Kuwait (RJ)
20:40 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
20:50 Baghdad (RJ)
21:00 Jeddah (RJ)
21:15 Tripoli, Damascus (PK)
21:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:30 Cairo, London, Athens, Amman, Beirut, Baghdad, Damascus, Tripoli, Agaba 17

PRAYER TIMES

04:22 Fajr
05:47 Sunrise
12:33 Dhuhr
16:14 Asr
19:19 Maghrib
20:45 Isha

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in fils
Belgian franc 95.5/ 97.1
Dutch guilder 178.1/ 181
French franc 58.7/ 59.8
Italian lire 26.9/ 27.3
Japanese yen (for 100) 268/ 273
Swedish crown 56.9/ 57.9
Swiss franc 241/ 245.4
U.K. sterling pound 625.5/ 637.4
U.S. dollar 334.2/ 339.3
W. German mark 199.6/ 203.1

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

An increase in temperature is expected with northwesterly moderate winds. In Agaba, winds will be very fresh and calm seas.

Amman 24°C, Agaba 24°C, Deserts 20°C, Jordan 20°C, Amman 24°C, Agaba 24°C, Deserts 20°C, Jordan 20°C.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

* Amman governorate .. 891228
Amman Civil Defence .. 198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid .. 271293, 273131
Civil Defence Quesmeh .. 70733
Civil Defence Deir Alla .. 57306
Ambulance .. 935, 77511
Amman downtown fire brigade .. 198
First aid .. 630341
Blood Bank .. 778033
Civil Defence rescue .. 651111
Fire headquarters .. 62000-3
Police rescue .. 192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters .. 639141
Electric Power Co. 63681/4, 624881
Municipal water complaints .. 7711258
Queen Alia Intl. Airport (06)5333060

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre .. 813813/52
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity .. 642362
Malhas, J. Amman .. 6641646
Palestine, Shmeisani .. 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital .. 669131
University Hospital .. 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital .. 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali .. 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali .. 666127/7
Italian, Al-Muasher .. 6641646
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh .. 77

PSD to use helicopters to monitor traffic, borders

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) plans to use helicopters for monitoring traffic and border areas, and is currently recruiting staff to operate these services, according to PSD's Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali.

Majali was quoted by Al-Dustour Arabic daily as saying also that the PSD is now involved in a campaign to end the presence of beggars from Jordan's cities and towns, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and Greater Amman Municipality.

He said the beggars are not apprehended but their cases are being studied to find solutions for their problems.

Proper assistance will be found for the needy people who take to the streets, in cooperation with the concerned departments, Majali noted.

He said the PSD is also active in preventing street vendors from congesting streets, and has arranged with the municipality to offer them a plot of land to peddle their goods.

A recent campaign to remove vendors resulted in the apprehension of 900 of them, of whom 300 proved to be non-Jordanians and will be ordered to leave the country, Majali noted.

According to Majali the Mahatta Prison will be closed down in a few months once the Swaga model rehabilitation and reformatory centre has been completed.

He said that PSD has set up seven committees to help stem juvenile delinquency, and it will be working closely with higher national committee for combating crime.



Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi Tuesday

Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat two cheques with the total amount of JD 166,000 (Petra photo)

Education Ministry staff, teachers donate JD 166,000 to Zakat Fund

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has received JD 166,000 in donations from Ministry of Education staff and teachers and students in various governorates.

The contributions will be handled by the Ministry of Awqaf's Zakat Fund which distributes aid to the poor and provides financial help to the victims of Israel's atrocities in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi handed Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat two cheques one for JD 107,000, raised from a deduction of a day's pay from the salaries of Ministry of Education employees, and the other for JD 59,000 raised in individual contributions by teachers and students in various regions.

The contributions were made in response to a government decision to deduct the day's pay from all employees salaries, so that the Zakat Fund can have sufficient cash to offer to the families of the dead, the wounded and the jailed people in the occupied territories.

The order was prompted by the on-going uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and as a show of solidarity with the oppressed people there.

The Zakat Fund, operating under the supervision of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has been providing for Palestinian students in East Bank universities whose sources of income have been cut off due to the uprising.

On April 5, an announcement here said that the total collection from government employees was JD 300,000 and indicated that 165 families of martyrs and 900 university students in the East Bank were benefiting from the donations.

It said that there had been no indication yet about the possibility of contacting the disease through mere contact, swimming pools or breathing, use of clothes and insect bites.

According to the pamphlets the number of world AIDS victims is on the increase, and according to World Health Organisation's (WHO) statistics nearly 72,000 AIDS cases exist in 151 countries around the world.

The pamphlets said that Jordan does not import any blood from any source and that the country has a few cases of AIDS carriers.

Earlier this month a national committee charged with taking measures for combating AIDS held its first meeting and reviewed steps taken for spreading

information on the disease to the public. The committee groups representatives of the ministries of Health, Education, Interior, Information, Higher Education, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs as well as the Public Security Department, the Bar Association, the General Union of Voluntary Societies and the General Federation of Jordanian Women.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh who addressed the meeting said that the campaign against AIDS should not remain the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Health.

The Health Ministry last year reported the discovery of 12 cases of AIDS in Jordan of which eight were Jordanians, three of whom died in January this year.

Chief Justice was called on to offer help in solving the problem, and he had referred the case to the Islamic Court in Shmeisani which will examine the whole case and decide on the distribution of the money at a session to be held on May 26.

He was quoted by Al-Rai Arabic daily as saying that when the dam was first built between 1981 and 1985, plans were made for enabling it to hold back 10 million cubic metres of water annually, but later the wall were raised to new heights enabling the reservoir to take up to 20 million cubic metres of water from the wadis.

The water, he said, is being pumped to the East Ghor Canal which in turn distributes it to the fields in the Jordan Valley in the dry season.

Abbadi noted that a power station, set up near the dam site, is now generating 370 kilowatts per hour. It has been linked to the national grid and is supplying northern Jordan Valley regions with electricity.

Speaking at a meeting with a group of intellectuals and newspaper columnists, the minister said that the government will allocate prizes to encourage literary and creative writing, and will amend a law on publication and literary production to achieve that goal.

Hammouri said the Ministry of Culture will entrust a number of writers and literary men to write on specific subjects and will sell the books at nominal prices to encourage more people to read.

Furthermore, the minister said, the government will issue two periodicals covering cultural themes one of which will tackle children's literature.

SSC has invested JD 223m in projects

Social Security Corporation covers 465,000 workers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC), which has been in operation for the past 100 months, covers some 465,000 workers employed by 7,000 public and private companies and organisations in the Kingdom, according to SSC Director General Mahdi Al Farhan.

Since the establishment in January 1980, the SSC has invested a total of JD 223 million in various economic and development projects in the Kingdom, to generate income for compensating beneficiaries for death, old age and occupational risks, Farhan said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"By the end of 1980 the SSC covered only 37,000 workers, but this number of workers has increased so quickly in view of the benefits offered by the corporation, and also the number of institutions have increased by 42 times by April 1988," Farhan noted.

He said that the SSC makes it imperative on different government departments, universities, companies, banks, municipalities and other institutions to include their workers of any nationality in the scheme, entitling them to benefit from its advantages.

Jordanian expatriates have been allowed to join in July 1986 on an optional basis and Jordanian farmers and merchants can now benefit from the SSC law if they so desire, Farhan noted.

Farhan said that before the application of the law workers were given a lump sum compensation upon the termination of their work and were not covered in any way for occupational injury or death, and never dreamed of receiving pension after reaching old age.

He said that under the SSC law, compensation in the form of monthly pension for those who do active service, and are liable for compensation which covers occupational risks, old age, disability, death, temporary disability due to illness, health insurance to the worker and his family, and insurance against unemployment.

But, Farhan noted that the SSC law is being applied now for the most important categories: old age, death and disability, and the beneficiaries receive monthly salaries for life.

However it is hoped that the other articles will be covered, once sufficient funds have been secured, he noted.

However, he said, the SSC is now conducting a study to see how the other categories can be covered, and who would be responsible for covering the cost.

The SSC, Farhan added, offers security for 465,000 workers, who together with their families, form nearly 1.5 million persons, especially when the breadwinner of the family is no more available to earn a living.

SSC paid JD 7,351,000 in monthly salaries

According to Farhan the SSC has, up to December 1987, paid a

total of JD 7,351,000 in monthly salaries to beneficiaries, and that the average monthly salaries paid to these beneficiaries, stand at JD 250,000.

He said these beneficiaries include those who reached the retirement age, families of dead persons, and workers who sustained occupational injuries or disabilities.

Farhan said there is a certain type of beneficiaries who receive a lump sum compensation at the end of their work in Jordan and these include foreign workers upon leaving the country, workers who become covered by the civil service commission's pension scheme or the military pension scheme. Jordanians who acquire foreign nationality and emigrate, Jordanian women workers wishing to give up their jobs to look after their families, convicted persons serving at least five-year prison sentences, and those workers who die before meeting conditions for pension.

So far, he said, the SSC paid lump sum compensation totalling JD 21,383,000 to 77,130 beneficiaries of whom 4,195 received their compensation in the first three months of 1988.

Among the total number of those compensated with lump sums were 50,000 foreigners who have already left the country, Farhan noted.

The SSC director said that workers who sustain occupational injuries receive nearly three quarters of their daily wages until they recover, but their families receive full monthly pension in case of their death.

Since 1980, the SSC has taken care of 38,141 workers with injuries and paid a total of JD 3,510,000 in compensation or to cover the cost of treatment, Farhan added.

The SSC, he noted, has so far paid a total of JD 32 million in compensation to workers for death, occupational injuries, old age, lump sum compensation and

others. The decision to include Jordanian expatriates in the SSC, Farhan pointed out, came in implementation of the resolutions adopted by the first expatriates conference held here in 1985, and "the door was then opened for all expatriates to join on optional basis."

The expatriates are now paying premiums through Jordanian embassies in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, Farhan said.

The SSC invests the premiums in development and economic schemes to generate income and meet its commitments, according to Farhan.

He said that workers pay only five per cent of their salaries while their organisations pay 15 per cent. But this money is accumulated into large sums that are being invested for the benefit of all workers in the public and private sectors.

These investments also help to bolster the national economy and open more opportunities for profits that eventually benefit all sectors, Farhan noted.

SSC investments

SSC funds, he said, have been invested in major industrial, tourism, housing and economic projects in the Kingdom. Among these are: The Jordan Cement Factories Company, the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, the White Cement Factory, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company, and Jordanian banks and financial institutions.

The SSC owns and operates three major hotels: Amra, Petra and Aqaba, and 19 resthouses in main tourist sites.

In addition, Farhan said, the SSC offers loans for housing projects, carried out by organisations and companies, and has bought government bonds which yield large amounts of interest.

Ministry starts wide scale AIDS awareness campaign in schools

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education has embarked on a wide scale campaign to spread awareness among school children against the killer disease AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

Al-Rai Arabic daily said that the campaign includes lectures, posters and pamphlets focusing light on the danger of the disease and ways to avoid it.

The paper said particular attention is being given to students of the third secondary class, who are liable to continue their education in Jordan and abroad where they might fall victim to the killer disease.

The ministry's Health Department, which is sponsoring the campaign, said that the disease could be contacted through homosexuality, normal sex relations with infected persons and through blood transfusion.

It said that there had been no indication yet about the possibility of contacting the disease through mere contact, swimming pools or breathing, use of clothes and insect bites.

According to the pamphlets the number of world AIDS victims is on the increase, and according to World Health Organisation's (WHO) statistics nearly 72,000 AIDS cases exist in 151 countries around the world.

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Furthermore, the minister said, the government will issue two periodicals covering cultural themes one of which will tackle children's literature.

NHF embarks on bee-breeding project

KARAK (Petra, J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) has embarked on a bee-breeding project in cooperation with the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) and a local vocational training corporation in the Karak region.

A JCO official here said that the project, the first of its kind in the Kingdom, is being supervised by a local women's society which markets its production.

The official said that the project is part of JCO's activities to stimulate the role of rural women in socio-economic development in the southern regions of the country.

The project has been provided with equipment for breeding bees and producing honey, and a team

of technicians and workers are now being recruited to operate the project, the official said.

The project, he said, is being set up on a state-owned land of 21 dunums.

In Ajloun, another JCO official Atallah Sarhan said beekeepers in the Ajloun district have formed a society and are cooperating with the JCO to produce honey.

The JCO is providing lectures and instructions to the farmers on the most proper manner to produce honey and to market the product.

So far 450 farmers have joined the society and are benefiting from their cooperation in this field.

Government to produce locally produced chick-peas

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has decided to go ahead with purchasing locally produced chick-peas and has set up a committee to organise the process of purchasing cereals from farmers.

An announcement here Tuesday said that farmers, following the Ministry of Agriculture's patterns system, will be entitled to subsidies as stipulated in the ministry's sets of regulations and allocated JD 54,395 to pay for local chick-peas bought in the

coming season. The committee which will grow representatives of the ministries of Finance, Supply and Agriculture, as well as the Jordan Cooperative Organisation, will take charge of buying local cereals and defining types of crops to be purchased through the subsidised prices.

The cabinet entrusted the committee to fix prices of all types of cereals.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CHILDREN'S DRAWINGS: A ceremony was held at the Nazek Al Hariri Social Education Centre in Amman Tuesday for the distribution of winners in an annual drawing competition for children. Children aged between six to 18 years, from 15 different special education centres in the Kingdom, took part in the competition producing together 176 paintings. The ceremony was under the patronage of Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid who distributed prizes and awards to the winners. The winners will compete in an international competition of children's drawings which will be held in Hungary.

INCOME TAX: Income Tax office in Karak governorate has so far received income tax self-assessment statements submitted by 451 income tax payers, 374 of whom benefited from the special deduction offered to those who submit their statements early. The office director, however, called on all income tax payers to submit their statements before the end of the month to avoid paying a fine of 2 per cent for every month of delay.

BOOK EXHIBITION: Director General of Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA) Ahmad Shams Tuesday inaugurated the national book and audio-visuals exhibition, organised by the Vocational Training Centre in Ain Al Pasha to mark the national book week. The week-long event includes a special stand for new books and another stand for researches and studies on children.

UREIQAT RECEIVES ENVOYS: Labour and Social Development Minister Rashid Ureiqat Tuesday discussed with American and Egyptian ambassadors to Jordan bilateral cooperation in the field of social work. At two separate meetings, the minister also reviewed cooperation in the field of labour and labour force. Ureiqat received from the Indian ambassador an official invitation from his Indian counterpart to visit India for exchange of views and expertise in the field of labour.

SHIDIEH MINES: Deputy Ma'an Governor Tuesday inspected work at the Shidieh Phosphate Mines installation, which will be operational in June and visited the electrical power station, which will supply the mines areas, the residential area, Jafr, and all agricultural projects in the region with electricity. He also toured the new JD 780,000 road linking the mines with the main road.

Murderer gets 15 years

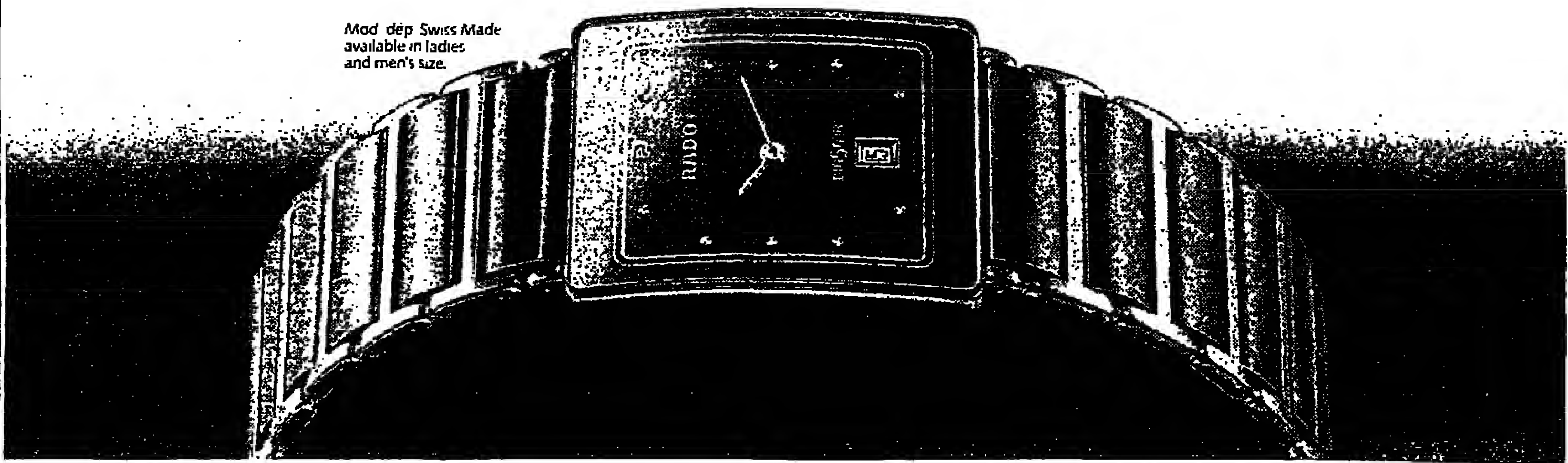
AMMAN (J.T.) — A 20-year-old man identified as S.B.A. has been sentenced to 15 years in prison with hard labour for committing a pre-meditated murder in February 1988, according to Al-Dustour Arabic daily.

The paper said that the murderer had killed 25-year-old K.M.M. of Egyptian nationality and living in Irbid.

It said that the murderer had quarrelled with the Egyptian while on a tour of the Jordan Valley region near Irbid, and stabbed him several times.

The anatomic solution.

RADO DiaStar



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in Jordan by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورديان تايمز مؤسسة صحفية مستقلة نشرها في الأردن مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

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Time to push

HAVING tried in vain almost every trick in the book of violent oppression to quell the Palestinian uprising, Israel has now turned its hand to a systematic bureaucratic campaign to inflict as much damage as possible to the economic fabric of Palestinian life in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Dozens of shopkeepers have been arrested for their refusal to abide by the occupation army's orders to open and close at dictated hours other than called for by the leadership of the uprising and wholesale traders who supply most of the essential goods to the West Bank have been closed down. The first question that emerges is since when does any power have any authority to order shops opened or closed? But then we might be overlooking the very reality that things are not done by the Zionists the way they are done elsewhere in the world.

At the same time, the occupation authorities might be doing a service to the Palestinian uprising by confiscating identity cards of Gazans in a clear move to block their means of making a livelihood since it also means that many Israeli industries are deprived of the cheap labour they used to enjoy. It is only typical of the short-term vision of the Israeli leaders which is only too evident in their entire outlook towards addressing the core issues involved.

However, the Israeli move to choke off material support for the Palestinians in the occupied territories from the outside is taking its slow toll, according to reports from the West Bank and Gaza. That is indeed a very disturbing development since the steadfastness of the Palestinian people cannot forever be maintained on empty stomachs no matter how strong the resolve for liberation and freedom. It might look well in theory that people do have to pay a very high price for liberation, but human nature tells us differently. The situation in the occupied territories may not have reached that stage yet, but it is not too far round the corner unless the Arab World comes up with innovative programmes to circumvent the impact of the onerous Israeli campaign. The time is here and now to push with all the Arab might and resources to ensure that the heavy price that the Palestinian people are paying in the 20-week-old uprising will not be outbidded by the occupation power's cunningness.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Peres ambiguous document

ISRAELI Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has prepared a political document which he says will form the framework of his Labour Party's programme in the coming parliamentary elections. In this document, Peres included ambiguous words about withdrawal from occupied Arab lands and acceptance of a settlement with the Arabs. But in essence it reflects the Likud block's programme and appears to be aiming to achieve its goals, since it is designed to achieve Zionism's objectives. It is difficult to say that Peres's document was in conflict with the ideas of Shamir who leads the Likud, and it is hard to say that both men are in disagreement on the declared or undeclared objectives of world Zionism. Both Labour and Likud are in agreement that there can be no room for any political moves to solve the problem with the Arabs as long as Israel is militarily powerful to impose its domination and its will on them. In Israel's views, questions related to security and peace and settlements with the Arabs can only be decided on by Zionism, and that there can be no solution for the Middle East issue upon the assumption that the Palestine problem is the core of that issue. In fact, the Labour Party's principles call for continued occupation and continued domination of Arab areas and for military and political power for Israel to confront any eventuality. Peres's document therefore is another evidence of the true aggressive nature of Israel's leaders, reflected in their election programmes.

Al Dustour: Israel's harsh measures

ISRAEL, following in the steps of all previous invaders of the Arab region, is maintaining its oppressive and terrorist measures against the Arab population under its rule. It is going ahead with measures to stifle the uprising of the Palestinian people who are seeking freedom and an end to occupation. Despite the fact that all these practices have so far failed to stop the uprising which is almost five months old, the Israelis are resorting to more brutal measures to try to end the revolt which is spreading and widening all the time. Following the breaking of the young men's bones the Israelis are now resorting to a policy of starving the Arab population and imposing a siege on refugee camps and towns. They have imposed a siege on one and a half million people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the course of the new policy. This collective punishment has so far failed to achieve any result, thanks to the solid and firm will and determination of the Arab people in the occupied areas. We follow with a feeling of pride reports about the heroic stand of the Arab population in the face of Israel's atrocities; and we are confident that in the end this steadfast people will come out victorious.

Sawt Al Shaab: Unity of ranks

JORDAN welcomes the Syrian-Palestinian rapprochement because it believes that only through unity of ranks can the Arab Nation strengthen itself and confront the different challenges. Only through unity of ranks can the Arabs confront Israel's continued occupation of Arab land and Iran's aggression on Iraq. This unity is needed now to support the Palestinian people's uprising against Israeli oppression and to help bring about a just and lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is needed to help the Arabs regain their lost territory and the Palestinians achieve their national objectives. For this reason, Jordan was quick to declare its support for the Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation and for this reason this country will continue to adhere to its principles as contained in the six-point document handed to the U.S. secretary of state. Jordan hopes that a united Arab front will help convene an international conference on the Palestinian question and enable the Palestinians to establish their legitimate rights in their own homeland.

Uprising casts shadow over Israel's 40th anniversary

By Karin Lamb
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

The Arab uprising has cast a shadow over Israel's yearlong 40th anniversary bash, with American director Woody Allen, poet Allen Ginsberg and tennis ace Chris Evert among celebrities who turned down invitations. Israeli organisers hope to stem the wave of cancellations by assuring reluctant guests that the Arab-Israeli conflict will be a central theme and that they are free to criticise Israel.

Some Israelis consider the no-shows another slap in the face to a nation that throughout its short history has often found itself isolated and a target of international criticism.

But others said they won't let it spoil the party.

"You have seen the people of Israel truly rejoice, going out for picnics, going out into the streets," said Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's aide, Avi Pazner, referring to last week's independence day celebrations. "Nobody can take that away."

Organisers said many big names remained on the guest list, including American movie director Robert Wise and Indian-born Zubin Mehta, conductor of both the New York and Israel philharmonic orchestras.

Israeli organisers had planned an impressive lineup of poetry readings, film festivals and theatre performances as highlights of Israel's 40th anniversary celebration.

But in the midst of preparations, the Arab uprising erupted five months ago, and televised images of Israeli soldiers beating and breaking the bones of Arab youths and razing houses sparked an international outcry. More than 170 Arabs were killed by the Israeli troops in the uprising.

No to state terror

"We are in a war, and it hurts everything, our celebration, our economy, tourism, our feelings," said Yakov Agmon, the chief coordinator of the anniversary festivities.

Agmon suffered a major setback last week when five Israeli poets organising one of the main events, the international poetry week, withdrew their support and called on fellow artists to boycott the June festival.

"A government that demolishes civilian houses... and kills youths in what can only be termed state terror is not worthy to have poets come to a government-sponsored festival," said Natan Zach, a founding father of modern Hebrew poetry who lives in Haifa.

Agmon initially wanted to cancel the festival, but then asked his staffers to poll the invited poets — 80 Israelis and 35 foreigners — to see if there was enough support to go ahead. He said he would make a decision later this month.

He would not give names of poets who turned down invitations, but two of the most prominent, Ginsberg and Soviet poet

Yevgeny Yevtushenko, said they would not attend.

Ginsberg said in New York he initially accepted, hoping to use the festival as a "protest for peace," but later withdrew in solidarity with Zach's decision.

Organisers of other festivals also said many international artists were torn about whether to attend.

"We got a lot of letters from film directors who said, 'how can we come to Israel and talk about movies when people get murdered?'" said Nili Miller, spokeswoman for the weeklong international student film festival, scheduled for May.

Political reasons

Miller said organisers had asked 150 film schools to submit contributions, and 45 accepted while 50 of the refusals cited political reasons.

To overcome such reservations, organisers decided on a 32-hour retrospective of films on the Arab-Israeli conflict, which has become the centrepiece of the festival.

As a result, several prestigious contributors, including the London International Film School, agreed to attend. "They now have a feeling that they're not just coming to talk about art, but to get involved," Miller said.

But others, like Allen, turned down the invitation. Allen did not give a reason, but Miller suggested his refusal was politically motivated. Earlier this year, Allen, who is Jewish, sharply

criticised Israeli policies in a letter to The New York Times.

Event and fellow tennis star Brad Gilbert pulled out of a May tennis benefit tournament for a Jerusalem hospital.

"Ms. Evert decided to withdraw mainly because of the political problems," said hospital spokesman Rami Sadan, who cancelled the tournament.

Some entertainers have chosen another way.

Theatre du Soleil, a Paris-based avant-garde troupe, agreed to attend this summer's Israel festival, an annual performing arts extravaganza, after telling organisers it would first publish a statement about its political views in Israeli newspapers.

In the half-page ad published April 15 in The Jerusalem Post newspaper, the group described the Arab uprising as justified, but also asserted Israel's right to exist in peace and security.

Pazner said he opposed attempts to encourage political debate to assuage the liberal conscience of VIPs.

"It is wrong to turn a national celebration into a political event," Pazner told the AP. "The Israeli people want to rejoice without politics."

He lashed out at local artists criticising Israel, calling them "a small minority of pseudo-intellectuals who believe self-hatred is the answer to the problems of the Jewish people."

Countered Zach: "He is probably right if he means by self-hatred that we are having problems with our conscience."

Sudan: The heavy toll of civil war

By Tom Porteous

SUDAN'S civil war is on the move — northwards. It is no longer the isolated "southern problem" of which Khartoum spoke when the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) renewed the North-South conflict in 1983. Five years on the war is seriously undermining the political and economic stability of the Arab North, threatening to bring down the two year old coalition government of Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi. And there is no end in sight.

In Khartoum the ravages of war in the South are carved on the faces of the thousands of refugees who arrive each month, tired and hungry, escaping the dark turmoil of their war torn villages and pasture lands. In the squalid bidonvilles which have sprouted around the capital and other northern cities, these refugees eke out a meagre living at the bottom of an economic and social system already devastated by war and drought. There they join famine victims from the west and refugees from other droughts and other wars in northern Ethiopia and Chad.

For the poor and middle class Arabs of Khartoum the swelling shanty towns are just one reminder of distant war which is nonetheless taking an increasing toll on their daily life. Car owners queue for up to two days for their weekly ration of half a tank of petrol; roads are full of potholes; public transport is sporadic and overcrowded; electricity cuts are frequent and long; schools and hospitals are run down and ill-supplied. Like most goods, medicines are not available, except on the black market at inflated prices. The black market thrives on the war. Prices rise weekly. The vast influx of refugees, and the government's bankruptcy, keep wages down. Food riots are useful tools for competing political groups. In turn political groups, even those in power, are an easy prey for the influence of the black-marketiers.

In spite of emergency laws and regular police raids and roadblocks, smuggling, hoarding and robbery are on the increase. Even in Khartoum, gunfire is sometimes heard at night. In the provinces, particularly in the west where tribes have been armed by Libyans fighting against neighbouring Chad, the situation is worse. Khartoum newspapers say murderous bands of outlaws and robbers roam the western province of Darfur. But Southern politicians in the capital have another story, the Muslim, but non-Arab, peoples of Darfur and the Nuba mountains are throwing in their lot with the SPLA; they are on the brink of rebellion.

As the damaging effects of the war on the North became increasingly apparent at the end of last year, the SPLA leader, John Garang, played a masterful trick. In November his forces marched into the North, for the first time, and captured two villages near the Ethiopian border. The incursion was strategically unimportant, its main purpose was to win new recruits. But psychologically it was a masterstroke. There was

panic in Khartoum. Rival Northern political groups rose to the occasion, seeking to make political headway from the incident. The SPLA advance was represented as a slight on the integrity of the North, a threat to the hydro-electric power stations of Al-Damazin which supply Khartoum with electricity, a precursor of some future attack on the capital itself. Meanwhile the SPLA withdrew quietly, having made their point.

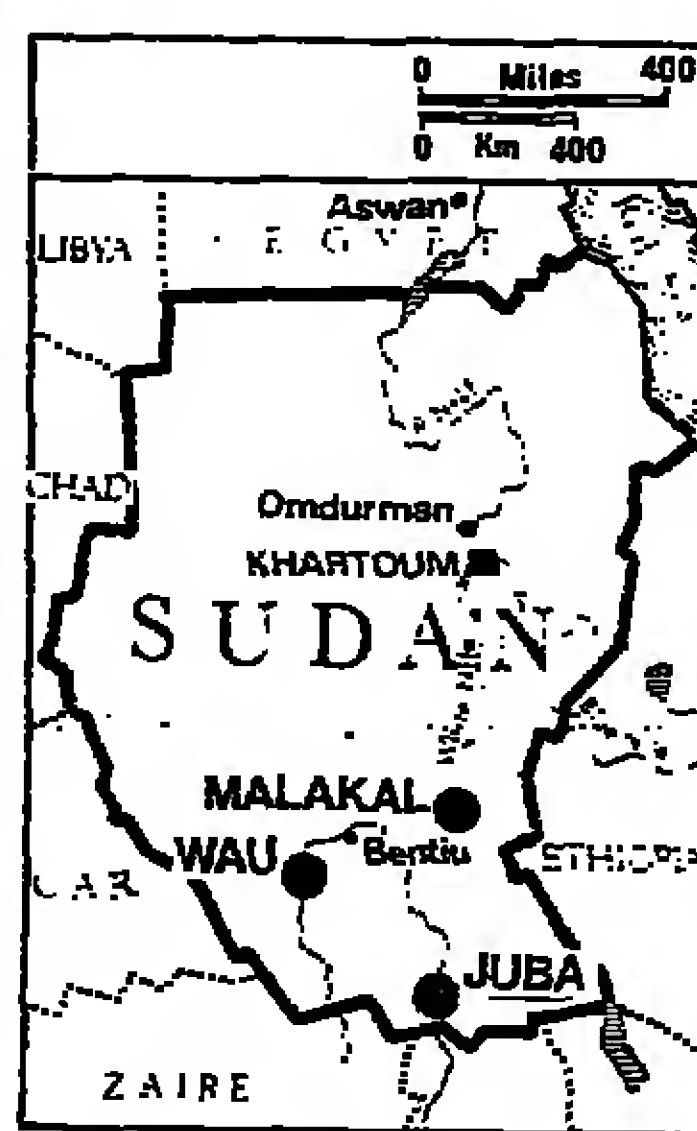
The disastrous effects of the war have increased the racial and religious tensions which underlie the conflict. The Arab Muslims of the North regard the non-Arab, non-Muslim Southerners with suspicion, if not outright hatred, especially now that Southern refugees are overrunning their cities. The Southerners who have fled to the North are blamed for the deteriorating economic situation, for low wages and high rents, for overcrowded buses and hospitals. They are even accused of being the SPLA's fifth column, ready to turn against their Arab hosts as soon as the rebels give the word.

"Few Arab politicians are ready to recognise the just grievances of the rebels."

As such sentiments, fuelled by the SPLA's belligerence, gain ground among Sudanese Arabs, prospects for a negotiated political settlement recede. Few Arab politicians are ready to recognise or acknowledge the just grievances of the rebels who — on an end off — have been fighting for an end to the traditional Arab dominance of the African South since independence in 1956. In government circles, the war is represented primarily as an external problem, the main cause of which is Ethiopia's support for the SPLA. The government's efforts to end the war therefore focus on seeking a dialogue with the Ethiopians, not on studying the demands of the SPLA, among which the abolition of *sharia* (Islamic law) is crucial.

Three years ago President Ja'far Numeiri was deposed after an uprising organised by the influential professional associations who are generally opposed to *sharia*, and in favour of a compromise with the SPLA. Numeiri's demise brought hope that Islamic law would be removed from the statutes and a settlement of the war negotiated. One year later, the Koka Dam declaration, signed by the SPLA and Northern political groups, set this peace process in motion by calling for the establishment of a secular constitution. The following month Sudan's first democratic elections in 17 years brought Al Mahdi's coalition government to power. Today, almost two years later, the war is raging more fiercely than ever, Islamic law is still in force and the prime minister is under increasing pressure not to abolish it.

Most of the pressure to keep *sharia* comes from the Islamic Fundamentalist movement. The movement is nourished by the strong religious sentiments and polarisation aroused by the war, and perhaps by the conviction of



many that the manifold natural and manmade disasters which have struck Sudan in recent years are an indication of God's wrath. The fundamentalist party, the National Islamic Front (NIF), better known as the Muslim Brotherhood, is well organised, wealthy, and confident that it will soon take power in Sudan. With

the financial backing of Sudan's Islamic investment and banking community, whose considerable success is based on *sharia*, the NIF emerged from the elections as the only serious opposition to the coalition government in parliament. Like the powerless Southern parties, the once powerful Communists have been effectively marginalised. Their willingness to negotiate with the SPLA has lost them influence. During Garang's incursion into the North, a prominent Communist engineer was arrested in spying for the SPLA. Observers saw the incident as a political manoeuvre designed to discredit the Left. As for the professional associations which brought down Numeiri, they are still popular, but lack a political platform.

Meanwhile, the NIF's extra-parliamentary activities — which include massive demonstrations in support of *sharia*, control of student unions, missionary and relief work, well-publicised conferences, and control of half Khartoum's ten daily newspapers — give the fundamentalists a high profile and a wide audience for their frankly stated views.

"*Sharia*: it came with the people and with the people it will stay," read the fundamentalists' posters in Khartoum's dusty streets. In fact *sharia* was imposed by the faltering President Numeiri in a last ditch attempt to woo the Muslim Brotherhood in 1983. But given the religious mood of the North, the quasi-Islamic coalition government — the Umma and Democratic Unionist (DUP) parties which make up the coalition have their roots in the two religious sects, *Ansar* and *Khatmiya*, which have dominated Sudanese politics for more than a century — has not found the political will to abolish Islamic law.

The NIF's ambitious and sophisticated leader, Hassan Al Turabi, has made the most of the present government's many blunders. Al Mahdi has lost the confidence of his coalition, his party and the country by his failure to tackle the war and the economy. He has alienated Sudan's foreign backers. He has angered the army by failing to give it adequate support in the South and by building up his own private militia. Sudanese complain that Al Mahdi's main occupation now is to try to justify his weak position and inconsistent policies in frequent rambling and contradictory speeches which no one wants to hear. On the other hand, Al Turabi (who is Al Mahdi's brother-in-law) has won solid support among the sectarian members of the Umma and the DUP opposed to secularism. He has a well studied and published political and economic programme. He has signalled his good intentions towards Egypt and Saudi Arabia which have been alarmed by Al Mahdi's flirtations with Libya and Iran. Most importantly, the NIF now has the support of many middle and high ranking army officers, including Abd Al Rahman Siwar Al Dhahebi who led the transitional military council which handed power to Al Mahdi two years ago.

That a growing number of Sudanese appear to see the NIF as the answer to Sudan's pressing problems is an indication of how far the North and the South are drifting apart. The NIF is the last Northern party with which the SPLA, or any other representative Southern group, would be prepared to deal. "I'm in a position to compromise with Al Mahdi," one prominent Southern activist told me. "But never would I compromise with Turabi... Turabi spells disaster for Sudan." The NIF professes to be a party of religious tolerance and national unity. It proposes a federal constitution as the solution to the Southern question. As presented, the NIF's proposal is reasonable and enlightened. But there are few Southern politicians in Khartoum who do not believe that the ultimate aim of the NIF is to suppress the South into submission to Islam, that a peaceful settlement with the NIF would be out of the question.

It is perhaps no coincidence therefore that the rise of the fundamentalist movement in the North has been accompanied, in the last year, by growing demands from a few Northern political groups for partition. "We should let the South go," I was told more than once, "and let it go to hell." The irony of these demands is that during the first stage of the civil war, from 1956-72, the Southern rebels were themselves fighting for a separate state. But today the SPLA is fighting for an equal share for the South in the government of Sudan. If the North wants partition, it will have to fight for it, according to Southern politicians familiar with SPLA thinking. But, as many Northerners point out, a war for partition is likely to be a much easier war for the North to win — Middle East International, London.

OPEN FORUM

Good news from Mafrag

THE trouble with good ideas is not having them, but using them. And in English language teaching in Jordan, there is no shortage of good ideas; indeed a wealth of excellent ideas for teaching and learning activities and practices is disseminated from the universities, the education directorates, and organisations like the British Council. But back in the classroom, with a text book to follow and exams on the horizon, teachers and students can be forgiven for wanting to play safe and stick to what they know. Although in general results are remarkably good, this can occasionally be boring for the students and frustrating for the teachers.

I saw no boredom or frustration or conservatism last Thursday afternoon in Mafrag. With my wife, the British Council's assistant representative for English language teaching in Jordan, I was invited to visit an "English Camp" in Mafrag. With guidance from the Mafrag directorate supervisor of English, Mawafiq Al Zabi, a group of teachers and students had given up the last three days of their April holiday to simply enjoy teaching and learning the English language together. My overwhelming impression from the visit was that they had demonstrated together that language learning can be fun.

Sixty boys and 50 girls attended camps in separate amply equipped premises, and followed an intensive and varied programme of activities. Grouped into teams bearing the name of a famous scholar they devoted each full day to speaking, reading, writing, and listening in English, through quizzes and contests, play rehearsals, audiovisual activities, and extensive library work. At the end of the camp, students were invited to make their own evaluation of what had taken place, criticising where necessary and offering suggestions for improvement.

The atmosphere was business-like and good-humoured. Students enjoyed having a better pupil-teacher ratio, meeting their own and other English teachers in a less formal setting, and meeting students from other schools sharing a common interest. They had the opportunity to spend three whole days immersed in a subject they all enjoyed, and to try out materials and activities they would not normally meet in school.

From the teachers I felt a sense of release. Evidently prepared to give up part of their holiday to do what they enjoy most, their jobs, they were revelling in the opportunity to try out new and more ambitious teaching activities. The student group was self-selecting. Clearly the most able, interested and enthusiastic learners. The premises and equipment were generous, and above all they were given the freedom to try out the good ideas they'd heard about but could not normally fit into the school curriculum.

What innovation requires above all from the teacher is self-confidence: if the teacher isn't sure a good idea will work, and if she or he communicates that uncertainty to the students, then nine times out of ten it won't work. The English camp can serve as a test bed, what is seen to work and work well can then be adapted and used with confidence in the conventional classroom.

For me the value of the Mafrag English camp lies not just in the sheer enjoyment, good will and motivation to learn that it has clearly demonstrated, but in providing teachers and students with the means to experiment with some of the many good ideas which, one day, will help to improve the quality of English language teaching in Jordan.

George Kershaw

Nine years of success haunt Greens

By David Fritz
Reuters

BRUSSELS — Western Europe's environmentalist Green parties are at a watershed after nine years of often spectacular success.

What started as a colourful protest movement shunning traditional ideologies has grown into a political force represented in seven national parliaments and about to make breakthroughs in others.

But now that traditional parties have fully recognised the electoral appeal of environmentalist issues, the honeymoon for Europe's Greens is over.

"If the last decade has brought Green parties, Green politics and Green ideas to the forefront of the political agenda in most of our countries, it has also woken up the institutions and organisations which pull the strings of the consumer-driven industrial regime under which we live," said Sara Parkin, co-secretary of the European Greens.

She was speaking at the organisation's fourth congress, held in the Belgian city of Antwerp this month.

The congress focussed on local politics, the platform from which ecologists launched themselves into the political arena.

Most of the 500 delegates from 19 countries at the congress acknowledged the continued importance of building their movements' political fortunes on local issues.

But many were upset that the congress did not debate whether and how the Greens should exercise political power.

This question has led to sharp divisions in West Germany's Green Party. Europe's most successful, and the bitter debate has cost it much of its political momentum.

Other Green parties face similar problems once they have succeeded in mobilising the voters for their cause.

Sergio Andreis, a Green member of the Italian parliament, told Reuters that it was crucial for the movement's future that it came to grips with the challenge of power.

"On the one hand we should continue as a protest movement with alternative approaches, on the other we must go the institutional way as well," he said.

"We should not be afraid of institutions — they are not per se negative — for as long as our work in them is issue-oriented rather than aimed at simply keeping the party in power," he added.

The Italian Green Party was founded in 1984, much later than most of its European counterparts, but with ecology becoming more of an issue in Italy it managed to win seats in national

parliamentary elections last June, mainly at the expense of the powerful Communist Party.

Switzerland was the first country to vote a Green Party member, Daniel Brelaz, into parliament in 1979. Belgium, Finland, Luxembourg, West Germany, Austria, Portugal and The Netherlands have followed since.

The Swedish Greens are confident they can enter parliament in elections later this year.

In other European countries, the Greens play roles of varying importance at a local level, but electoral systems unfavourable to small parties have denied them access to national politics.

Britain's "first-past-the-post" system, for example, means the Greens have virtually no chance of ever winning a seat in parliament. Greens say this might explain why Britain's traditional parties have much less interest in ecological issues than mainstream parties in the rest of Europe.

The West German Greens have made the biggest inroads into national politics, but their established opponents across the political spectrum were quick to endorse ecological issues themselves.

The West German Greens Party first entered the Bundestag (lower house) in 1983 with 5.6 per cent of the vote.

Immediately after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in April 1986 its support shot up to 12 per cent in opinion polls, but subsequent internal squabbling hurt its popularity. It still won 8.3 per cent (44 seats) in the 519 seat Bundestag in 1987.

The bitterly fought internal debate centred on the party's relationship with the Social Democrats (SPD).

The "realist" wing advocated cooperation as a way of breaking out of the ghetto of minority politics and putting Green ideas into practice.

But other wing, dubbed "fundamentalists," say such cooperation would endanger basic party principles like pacifism and total opposition to nuclear energy.

Last year, the West German Greens pulled out of a unique coalition with the SPD in the central state of Hesse, where Joschka Fischer had become the world's first Green minister.

With the "fundamentalists" holding sway in most party organs at present, and any form of cooperation with an increasingly self-confident SPD looking unlikely, the Greens seem unlikely to break out of their present role as an ecological protest movement.

Arab-Americans still support Jackson despite some tensions

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jesse Jackson appears to be retaining the support of his most loyal constituencies, the Arab-Americans, despite upsetting many of them with comments about Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"There's still a great deal of spirit out there for Jesse," especially after Jackson modified his remarks on Arafat, said Abdeen Jabara, president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC).

Arab-Americans have contributed more than \$400,000 to Jackson's 1988 presidential campaign, including some \$90,000 raised Sunday at a private home in Washington, according to his key Arab affairs adviser James Zogby. A handful of fund-raising events are scheduled in coming weeks in California, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio.

And there are 43 Arabs and Muslims running to be Jackson delegates in California, according

to Salam Marayati of the Muslim Political Action Committee in Los Angeles.

Jackson appears to have assuaged the concerns of some Arab supporters who were upset by his comment on the CBS broadcasting network that as president he would not meet with Arafat.

Jabara accused Jackson of "caving in" to Jewish groups, and said many members of his group were dismayed by the TV interview.

But the transcript of a subsequent interview that was printed in the New York Times seemed to "clear up any misunderstandings," Jabara said.

In that interview, Jackson pointed out there is a law, which he said should be changed, prohibiting U.S. officials from talking to the PLO because the PLO does not recognise Israel.

He said the PLO is "by far the most representative organisation of the Palestinian people" and should be represented at the

negotiating table.

Jackson's relationship with the Arabs goes back to 1979, when he visited the Middle East on a fact-finding tour and was photographed embracing Arafat.

That picture still angers many American Jews. But the Arabs see Jackson as a leader who is interested in the rights of their people as well as the security of Israel.

For many years Jackson has held that the U.S. policy against negotiating with the PLO is counterproductive.

His support for establishment of a Palestinian homeland also has endeared him to the Arabs. But he also contends the Arab states and Palestinians must recognise Israel's right to exist.

Zogby, head of the Arab-American Institute, said Arab-Americans, who number an estimated two million throughout the country mostly concentrated in about a dozen cities, had achieved financial and social security but felt excluded politi-



Jesse Jackson

cally until Jackson's 1984 presidential race.

"Jackson brought them into the process and they don't forget that," he acknowledged Jackson's televised comments two weeks ago caused, "an initial round of concern."

But he said Arab support again was pouring in by the time the New York primary ended April 19, and New York Mayor Ed Koch had savaged Jackson as being anti-Israeli.

S. Arabia to sign non-proliferation pact

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia, recently armed with missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads, is to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said Tuesday the Saudi cabinet, at a meeting chaired by King Fahd, decided Riyadh should sign the non-proliferation pact. The cabinet met Monday night.

China confirmed in March that it had sold an undisclosed number of surface-to-surface missiles to Riyadh.

The Washington Post said at the time that the CSS2-class missiles had a range of 3,560 kilometres.

The Saudi purchase, seen by Gulf-based diplomats to be a warning to Iran not to extend its missiles war beyond Iraqi targets, caused anger in Washington and concern in Israel.

On Monday, a bipartisan group

of 187 U.S. House of Representatives members signed a letter opposing a U.S. arms sale to Riyadh because of the Chinese missiles deal. New York Congressman Charles Schumer said.

An Israeli official earlier hinted that Israel's armed forces might make a pre-emptive strike against the medium-range missile batteries, which could strike Israel as well as Iran.

The New York Times said Tuesday Washington was trying to persuade Saudi Arabia to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to prove it did not intend to acquire nuclear warheads for the missiles.

According to the Times, administration officials said such a signature would have two effects.

"One would be to give symbolic assurances to Israel, where some officials hinted of a pre-emptive strike against the missiles."

"Another would be to placate Congress, where opposition to military sales to Saudi Arabia is growing," the Times said.

It added that most Middle East countries, except Israel, Algeria and some smaller Gulf states had signed the treaty.

Schumer, an opposition Democrat, said in Washington the letter from representatives urged Secretary of State George Shultz to withdraw the proposed arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Schumer made the announcement Monday after learning that the State Department planned to serve notice later Tuesday of the proposed sale, said spokesman Jay Gienachowski. Formal notification subsequently was postponed, he said.

Congress has 30 days to pass

legislation to block the arms sale once it is formally announced.

In a separate letter sent earlier, 58 Senators urged Shultz to rethink the proposed sale of Bradley fighting vehicles, Tow missiles and ground support equipment for AWACS early-warning aircraft.

State Department spokesman Dennis Harter said the administration had made no decision on when to formally notify Congress of the arms sales, but that officials were "doing some consultations" on the proposal, "particularly since there has been some evidence of congressional concern."

The Washington Post, citing unidentified State Department sources, said that despite the delay in giving formal notice of the sale, the administration was inclined to continue pressing for the sale, because "effective functioning of the AWACS planes is in the U.S. interest."

Israel launches bureaucratic bid

(Continued from page 1)

The paper quoted military sources in Gaza as saying confiscating ID cards of Palestinians in refugee camps was only a first step. Israel Radio said Monday dozens of Gazans had their ID cards seized and were ordered to report to police twice a day.

Police ordered shops to stay closed in the afternoon, when the uprising leaders call for them to be open. They arrested 14 merchants who violated army orders and closed their businesses on the Street of the Prophets near the walled Old City.

In Gaza City, hundreds of Palestinians lined up in front of the military government office to pay outstanding taxes and utility bills.

Israel Television said the lines formed after the military government adopted a new policy, requiring Palestinians to pay all bills before granting them travel permits, driving licenses and other important documents.

Israel temporarily suspended the accreditation of two senior foreign correspondents Tuesday because they broke censorship in reporting that Israeli agents killed Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad).

Yoram Ettinger, director of the government press office, said he summoned Glenn Frankel of the Washington Post and Martin Fletcher of the NBC television network to tell them their press cards were suspended until the outcome of an investigation into the alleged censorship violation.

Crown Prince, Gandhi review Mideast

(Continued from page 1)

Prince Hassan discussed this idea with a number of Indian businessmen who also welcomed the idea and called for widening scopes of cooperation in the field of economy.

Early Tuesday, Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath visited the tomb of Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi and the house and tomb of late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Indian Vice-President Sankar Dayal Sharma and his wife hosted a banquet in honour of Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath Monday night.

In a brief exchange at the banquet, Prince Hassan outlined Jordan's firm policy towards efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict and praised Jordanian-Indian relations.

Sharma described the relation with Jordan as strong and long-standing and praised the role of the Arabic language and Arab culture in enriching the Indian culture. He also said that King Hussein's visit to India in 1986 contributed effectively to developing relations between the two countries. Sharma voiced his country's support of the just Arab causes and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and called for Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

PLO, Syria agree on need to formulate joint political stand

(Continued from page 1)

focus of the talks had been the Palestinian uprising and the peace proposals presented by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. "We both agreed that the American moves were aimed at suffocating the uprising," said a Fateh official.

Both sides reviewed the American stand and moves since 1978 and concluded that there was no substantial change in the American position, the official said.

The official said the two sides had not formulated a joint strategy yet but had agreed on the basis of their positions on a just and durable solution to the Palestinian problem.

The Arabs are seeking a United Nations sponsored international Middle East peace conference with complete powers on the basis of the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The Palestinian officials said the PLO was willing to accept the Syrian idea of a joint Arab negotiating team to the suggested conference provided that the PLO will be represented on equal footing with all other parties.

Well-informed sources told the Jordan Times that these points would form the main elements of a joint Syrian-Palestinian stand during an emergency Arab summit expected to convene in

Algiers in the beginning of June. PLO political department head Farouq Kaddoumi confirmed reports that the Arab summit could be preceded by a mini-summit to be held in Algiers or Tripoli in May attended by Assad, Arafat, Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and Libya's Colonel Muammar Qaddafi. The last two leaders played a major role in bringing about the long-awaited Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation.

Meanwhile Khaddam was expected to meet a Fateh delegation again Tuesday night to continue discussing unresolved issues.

According to Palestinian sources, Syria and Fateh still have to reach an agreement on relations with Egypt and the PLO's contacts with left-wing Israeli groups and to work out more detailed arrangements over the PLO's military presence in Lebanon.

The Fateh officials and Khaddam were also expected to discuss the possibility of reopening some PLO offices and institutions in Damascus. But, according to Kaddoumi, the present arrangement whereby the PLO maintains its headquarters in Tunis and offices in other Arab countries is unlikely to change in the immediate future.

Palestinian sources said Fateh officials were also expected to raise the issue of 2,000 Palestinian political detainees in Syria. Syria still maintains its reserva-

tions over the PLO's contacts with Egypt but is not demanding that the PLO sever its relations with Cairo, the sources said.

"We both agree on the importance of returning Egypt to the Arab fold and oppose the Israeli-Egyptian peace accord," a Fateh official said.

But the main difference between the Fateh leadership and Syria is on policies that should be pursued to achieve these goals. Syria insists that all contacts should be severed with Cairo unless Egypt abandons Camp David, while Fateh, or at least some of its leaders argue that the Egyptian people should not be ostracised. "I think that Syria and the PLO, and for that matter all Arabs, should find a formula which reconciles between the goal of abrogating Camp David without isolating the Egyptian people," the Fateh official said.

PLO officials reiterated that Syria agreed that Damascus did not have any veto over relations between the PLO and Arab countries provided that the basis of such relations are compatible with the common national goals and Arab consensus.

"In fact, we believe that the Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation has opened the door for strengthening relations with Jordan," Kaddoumi said.

The Palestinian factions are also engaged in moves to resume

a dialogue between Fateh and three pro-Syrian groups which boycotted the last session of the Palestine National Council (PNC), held in Algiers in April 1987.

According to Palestinian sources, leader of the Popular Struggle Front (PSF) Samir Ghoshe met with Arafat Monday night along with a number of Fateh rebels.

The sources said that Arafat gave the Fateh rebels a warm reception.

Monday's Assad-Arafat meeting was welcomed by left-wing PLO factions, especially the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Communist Party.

"A reconciliation between Fateh and Syria is the key, and if that is achieved there will be no problems left," DFLP leader Nayef Hawatmeh said.

In Cairo, Egypt said Tuesday it hoped the Arafat-Assad meeting would help heal Arab rifts.

"Egypt is working for a unified Arab front," Taher Al Farnawani, head of the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, told reporters.

"And on this basis, it welcomes the Palestinian-Syrian meeting if it will lead to coordination between them, regain Palestinian rights and reinforce their uprising," he added.

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — United Nations Security Council support for a proposed arms embargo against Iran has diminished since last week's clashes in the Gulf between U.S. and Iranian forces, U.S. officials said Monday.

Only Britain, France and the United States were strongly endorsing the embargo and support among the 12 other council members seems to have weakened further since the U.S. navy sank or disabled six Iranian war vessels in the Gulf a week ago, they said.

It also destroyed two Iranian oil rigs in retaliation for the mine explosion that holed a U.S. frigate and wounded its crew April 14.

After the attacks, the United States sent messages to the Security Council urging members again to support the arms embargo, which Washington has pushed for eight months as a means to force Iran to halt its eight-year-old war with Iraq.

"The response has been less than enthusiastic," said one U.S. official, who asked not to be identified.

"People are concerned what Iran's reaction might be," he said, adding, "I think people are waiting to see how the dust is going to settle."

The Soviet Union, which with China, the United States, Britain and France compose the council's five permanent members, has been the main obstacle to the

proposed arms embargo resolution, designed to enforce a council ceasefire order approved last July.

Secretary of State George Shultz discussed the matter with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow last week but made little apparent headway.

One U.S. official, who asked not to be identified, said Moscow apparently was concerned support for the arms embargo could provoke two million Afghan re-

fugees living in Iran and pro-Iranians in Afghanistan to undermine a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

China was also told the United States it does not want to move on an arms embargo at this time, U.S. officials said.

However, State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley denied there had been any shift in the Chinese position and said the council's five permanent members continued to consult on an arms embargo resolution.

Peking has told Washington since last September it would support enforcement measures if a council majority did and Chinese officials recently reaffirmed this position, she said.

China's Foreign Ministry said Tuesday that reports it had changed its stance towards an Iran arms embargo were groundless.

The ministry, in a short statement, said: "This report is groundless. Our position remains unchanged."

Italy orders seizure of poisoned Israeli grapefruit

ROME (R) — Authorities banned the sale of all grapefruit in the Rome region Tuesday after tests showed samples of the fruit had been injected with a dangerous poison in what they said was an apparent protest against Israel.

Regional Health Director Violenzio Ziantoni, who ordered the immediate confiscation of all grapefruit from Roman markets, said the precise origin of the poisoned fruit had not been determined but it was presumed to be from Israel.

Regional authorities issued a statement warning people not to eat grapefruit. They said the poisoned samples had been deliberately injected with a bright

blue substance which killed mice instantly in tests.

The poison showed up in tests on grapefruit samples after several threats to poison Israeli fruit were made to newspapers and Italian authorities in the last week.

Ziantoni said police had received a claim of responsibility for a "revolutionary group" Tuesday but neither he nor police headquarters in Rome gave further details.

Authorities in the region of Lazio, which includes the city of Rome, said health officials inspected the grapefruits in one Rome supermarket after a newspaper received a warning telephone call.

U.S. drops effort to turn Swiss decision

BERNE (R) — The United States said Tuesday it has given up attempts to reverse the appointment as Iranian ambassador to Switzerland of a man it believes led the takeover of the American embassy in Tehran in 1979.

A U.S. embassy spokesman said Washington was "deeply disappointed" at the appointment of Seyyed Mohammad Hossein Malaek, but it had agreed to regard the matter as closed.

Last week the United States protested at Switzerland's decision to accredit Malaek, saying it had evidence he had been a leader of those who took 52 Americans hostage nine years ago.

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AMMAN JORDAN

Jordanian industrialists fall victims to financial debacle

By Saleem B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government is presently considering alternatives to finance Jordanian private sector exports to Iraq following a recent Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) decision to stop financing these exports for exceeding trade exchange quotas defined by a Jordanian-Iraqi protocol, industrial and banking sources told the Jordan Times.

The decision by the CBJ, which has informally relayed its decision to Jordanian exporters near the end of last month, came after several industrial firms were already implicated with irrevocable, often long-term unconfirmed letters of credit and had already exported large quantities of manufactured goods.

Under-Secretary Mohammad Saqqaf reportedly visited Iraq two weeks ago during which he discussed the problem with Iraqi officials. No details were officially reported.

Enforcing regulations

The CBJ finances Jordanian exports as a form of payment for imports of Iraqi oil and other products under the trade protocol agreement.

Jordan imports 75 per cent of its oil needs from Iraq and the rest from Saudi Arabia.

Last year Jordan exported JD 60 million worth of manufactured goods to Iraq.

One of the reasons behind the sharp increase of Iraqi imports from Jordan is an Iraqi government decision this year to allow the private sector to import from the Kingdom along with the public sector. Other reasons include claims that non-manufacturing Jordanian companies had been importing manufactured products from other countries and selling them to Iraq through Jordan, after labelling and packaging them as Jordanian products with a certain percentage of added value.

Manufacturers asserted that the Ministry of Industry and Trade was not enforcing regulations against such practices. Some Jordanian manufacturers

had already obtained from the CBJ 60 per cent of the value of an export order to Iraq to pay for raw materials to manufacture these goods. Many of the manufacturers, whom the bulk of their exports go to Iraq, are now stuck with the raw materials or with large quantities of products in stock.

Some of these products were designed for the Iraqi market or labelled with names of certain Iraqi companies that they could not be easily reexported to other markets.

"The Central Bank (of Jordan) discovered the crisis one and a half months ago and stopped financing exports," economist Fahed Fanek told the Jordan Times. "It announced it was not committed to pay more than the part agreed upon with the Iraqi government, unless an agreement on this is reached with Iraq."

He contended that foreign reserves at the CBJ may not be enough to cover the exports in excess of the agreed quota.

"The Iraqi government does not finance the private sector."

"This is a problem for banks which financed the letters of credit and a problem for industrial companies which have ordered raw materials to produce goods, that may not be exported," he said that share prices of these companies at the Amman Financial Market declined around 10 per cent since first informal reports of the crisis broke out.

Dr. Fanek wondered: "How can matters reach this point before they are discovered and stopped?"

Lack of information

Manufacturers interviewed by the Jordan Times said the concerned government authorities were not keeping them informed about the size of the problem or

about the government's plans to solve it.

"It's a catastrophe," one manufacturer said describing the situation. "Some of the companies are manufacturing solely for Iraq."

He said that a failure to solve the problem may result in "destroying all what we have achieved in the field of industry over the past five years."

Iraq is currently one of the largest markets for Jordanian private manufacturers.

The manufacturer, who asked not to be named, called on the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Chamber of Industry to meet with industrial officials in order to discuss "a way out of this present dilemma."

He said that "continuing to behave as if there was no problem is suicidal," he pointed out to the decline in industrial companies' share prices and the possibility of seriously hurting the industrial sector in the Kingdom.

Another manufacturer said that signals that copies of letters of credit for exports were received simultaneously by the CBJ and that the central bank could have easily averted the problem before it grows to the present proportions, had there been a simple monitoring system.

"How come we were not told that the size of exports was accelerating towards exceeding the quotas," he asked. "This country cannot afford mistakes like these."

"Last year," he continued, "Jordan was becoming an industrialist's dream. Why threaten it with such a fiasco?"

They expressed hope that the government would act immediately to explain the situation and involve manufacturers in the process of negotiating a settlement to the situation which arose from the CBJ's move.

Joint Egyptian-Jordanian company develops plans

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan-Egyptian Investment Development Company (JEIDC) is currently involved in setting up a company to produce lean meat, a fishing company, a tourism corporation and a company to produce seeds and fodder, according to Midhat Abdul Aziz, under-secretary of the Egyptian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

Abdul Aziz, who is on a visit to Jordan, told Al Dustour Arabic newspaper that the projects were planned to meet the Egyptian and Jordanian needs of meat, fish, fodder and seeds and to boost the tourism industry in both countries.

The company for producing lean meat, which is being set up

in southern Jordan and which is expected to produce 100,000 heads of sheep annually, will have an overall cost of \$20 million, Abdul Aziz said.

He said that although the fishing company is to be set up in Egypt and its production will be marketed in Jordan and Egypt, no decision yet has been taken on the site of the company for producing fodder and seeds.

The joint company will set up tourist projects in Aqaba and southern Sinai and will carry out a wide scale programme to market the two regions' tourist attractions.

At least \$40 million will be spent on the joint tourism projects, Abdul Aziz said.

Officials explain reasons for high food prices

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian markets have been witnessing a shortage of fresh vegetables and fruits since the beginning of April largely due to exports of these commodities to Lebanon and France, according to Maen Abdul Qader, deputy director of the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO).

Abdul Qader said that Jordan had drawn up contracts to barter its vegetables with apples brought in from France and Lebanon and has been exporting considerable quantities of tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants and marrows to the two countries.

A report in Al Rai Arabic newspaper which reflected JAMPCO's views also quoted Ministry of Supply's Secretary-General Abdullah Al Hawamdeh as saying that more fruits and vegetables will be found in the

local markets as of the coming week due to the ripening of the summer crops in Jordan.

Hawamdeh said that the past winter brought in heavy rains and unexpected damage to a number of crops rendering low level production and a subsequent soaring prices.

In the past week, the price of a kilogramme of tomatoes was about 300 to 430 fils; marrows, 230-300 fils; beans, 320-400 fils and cucumbers 250-380 fils, according to the report.

JAMPCO takes charge of importing certain types of vegetables and fruits which cannot be produced in Jordan or which are in short supply.

Over the past years it has been able to draw up contracts for the importation of apples, onions and potatoes, and has marketed Jordan's agricultural crops in European and Arab countries.

U.S. economy gains

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. economy, largely shrugging off the blow of October's stock market crash, grew at an annual rate of 2.3 per cent in the first three months of the year, the Commerce Department said Tuesday.

The figure was in line with private economists' expectations of 2.0 to 2.5 per cent growth.

Although the expansion in gross national product (GNP), the total value of goods and services, was less than the 4.8 per cent rate recorded in the fourth quarter of 1987, economists said it should put to rest any lingering fears that Wall Street's slump on Oct. 19 might lead to an election-year recession.

The 2.3 per cent growth rate, which is adjusted for inflation and seasonal variations, is a preliminary estimate that will be revised twice in the coming months as the government collects fresh data.

The Commerce Department said the GNP deflator, an important inflation gauge which measures the price of a basket of goods and services, rose at a 2.4 per cent annual rate between January and March.

That was less than the 3.0 per cent rate economists had predicted and was slower than the 2.7 per cent inflation rate of the fourth quarter of 1987.

Moderate growth

Taken together, the reports paint a picture of an economy that was still growing moderately in the early part of the year without generating excessive inflation, economists said.

Despite the huge U.S. trade deficit and fears that price pressures will intensify, most economists expect the good times to continue at least through November's presidential election.

The White House is forecasting 2.4 per cent growth this year, while the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, is predicting between 2.0 and 2.5 per cent.

If the economy stays strong, political analysts say, Democratic calls for sweeping economic policy changes could strike voters as unnecessarily risky and Vice President George Bush's chances of retaining the White House for the Republicans would get a boost.

Bush has closely identified

himself with the Reagan administration's economic policies, which have produced 65 months of continuous growth, a peacetime record, but at a cost of a massive build-up in domestic and foreign debt.

The economy's resilient performance in the first quarter is a far cry from post-crash predictions that the destruction of nearly \$1 trillion of stock market wealth would cause consumers to cut back on spending and tip the economy into a recession.

But a breakdown of the GNP report shows the economy still faces considerable risks in the months ahead, economists said.

First-quarter growth largely reflected strong spending rather than investment or exports, suggesting to economists that demand for imports remained brisk and that the U.S. trade balance would be slow to improve.

Dollar declines

Reacting to this prospect, the dollar fell slightly in New York immediately following the GNP report.

While overall GNP increased by \$21.8 billion at an annual rate between January and March, personal consumption expenditures rose \$23.6 billion after falling \$16.1 billion in the fourth quarter of 1987.

Motor vehicle purchases accounted for more than half of the first-quarter rise and most of the fourth-quarter drop, the government said.

Net exports of goods and services, a better gauge of the nation's trade performance than the highly publicised monthly figures, rose \$3.6 billion in the first quarter after a \$2.6 billion rise in the fourth quarter.

Because businesses met the rebound in consumer demand partly by taking goods off their shelves rather than increasing production, the growth in business inventories slowed to a \$57.9 billion annual rate in the first quarter from \$60.5 billion in the fourth quarter, the government said.

The slower accumulation was due to a drawdown of car inventories. Retail stockpiles declined in the first quarter, but wholesale and manufacturing inventories grew more quickly.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for April 26, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	172865	JD 162476	232
Top three companies:			
Arab Life Insurance	51240	JD 52258	14
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	24500	JD 28443	63
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	15200	JD 19760	4
Parallel market:	94533	JD 45301	—
Development bonds:	50	JD 500	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	5	JD 563	—

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.8785/95	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2292/2302	Canadian dollar
	1.6720/30	Deutschmarks
	1.8753/58	Dutch guilders
	1.3827/37	Swiss francs
	34.96/99	Belgian francs
	5.6800/30	French francs
	1243/1244	Italian lire
	124.45/55	Japanese yen
	5.8655/8705	Swedish crowns
	6.1740/90	Norwegian crowns
	6.4340/90	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	448.40/448.80	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Prices closed slightly firmer in lacklustre trading following the Monday Anzac Day holiday. The All Ordinaries Index rose 4.3 to 1,441.1.

TOKYO — Prices rose 33.32 on the Nikkei Index to close at a record 27,246.77 on incentive-backed buying, but the market mood was cautious with profit-taking tempering gains.

HONG KONG — Prices closed weaker on increased selling, with overseas investors concerned over local trade performance. The Hang Seng Index fell 37.78 to 2,585.97.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed marginally lower on lack of buying interest and some profit-taking in quiet trading. The Straits Times Industrial Index fell 3.18 to 956.42.

BOMBAY — Widespread upcountry profit-taking reversed a week-long rally, but brokers believed the setback was only a temporary technical correction.

FRANKFURT — Prices closed lower after a lacklustre day with Daimler leading the market down after an unfavourable article in a local business magazine, dealers said. The Commerzbank Index, calculated at mid-session, fell 15.8 to 1,361.1.

PARIS — Prices ended sharply higher, boosted by foreign buying and renewed takeover speculation. Volume was moderate and the 50-share bourse indicator ended 2.56 per cent up.

ZURICH — Prices closed higher after food company Nestle SA announced a \$2.1 billion takeover bid for all outstanding shares of British sweets maker Rowntree PLC.

LONDON — Shares were buoyed by renewed speculative interest after news of the offer for Rowntree by Nestle. At 1505 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was 21 points up at 1,798.6.

NEW YORK — Prices were higher in quiet trading after rising on a moderate 2.3 per cent increase in first quarter GNP. The Dow 30 index was up 17 at 2,053.

Uprising dents Israel economy

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's economy has been dented by Israeli economists say the 20-week-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories have yet to inflict major damage.

"It seems that the immediate effect of these events on business activity in Israel, in the first two months of 1988, has been limited," the Bank of Israel said in its latest review.

The uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip could in future have an indirect impact through increased defence spending, a decline in tourism and strikes by Palestinian workers, it said.

But it pointed out that only 1.5 per cent of Israeli production is aimed at the market in the occupied territories.

"From this perspective no significant effect (on the economy) is to be expected also in the future," it said.

Leaders of the uprising, in which more than 160 people have died since December, have avoided using arms against occupation forces and called instead for economic warfare on Israel.

But this appears to have taken a heavier toll among the 1.5 million Palestinians in the territories than in Israel.

The Palestinians' most commonly-used tactic has been the strike. Arabs are usually left no opportunity except to take the menial jobs in Israel in the 20 years of occupation and the uprising has damaged sectors which rely heavily on cheap Arab labour.

"In March, my company should have recorded 25 working days but in fact we worked less than half that time because of repeated strikes in the territories," said a Tel Aviv building contractor.

"It is impossible these days to tell when you're going to complete a project as you have to wait for each morning to see if you have a work force at all," he said.

Zvi Zilkler, director of the Federation of Contractors and Builders, said construction has been hardest hit.

He said an average 50 per cent of the estimated 40,000 West Bank and Gaza employees of the industry had turned up for work since the uprising began.

The federation has brought 200 labourers from Portugal and is trying to recruit retired Jewish employees and workers from Israeli-controlled villages in South Lebanon.

Zilkler said building starts in January were 26 per cent down on the corresponding month in 1987.

"We are working on all sorts of contingency plans but the only short-term solution is to recruit foreign labour," he said.

The uprising has caught Israel's economy at a delicate stage amid signs of sustained improvement after years of high inflation and weak growth.

Higher defence spending

Experts say the economy could face aftershocks from higher defence spending. It could also suffer further manpower shortages

as the military has increased from 42 days a year to 62 the time many Israelis spend on reserve duty.

Treasury officials said the army was seeking a 250 million shekel (\$165 million) addition to its budget to cover the cost of fighting the uprising so far.

Most sectors of the economy recorded real growth rates in the first three quarters of 1987, but the pace of expansion slowed in the last quarter.

The trade balance deficit declined from a monthly average \$270.7 million in the first quarter of 1987 to \$235.2 million in January 1988 but rose to \$254.5 million in February.

Most economists say the variations have little to do with the uprising.

"After an initial shock, businessmen got used to the new reality and began adjusting," said Yosef Shostak, deputy director of the chamber of commerce.

He said many Israeli traders, caught by surprise as cheques issued by Arabs started bouncing when the uprising began, switched to cash deals.

"Industries like textiles, heavily dependent on Palestinian labour, were hurt significantly but at the bottom line of the entire economy, things are far from disastrous," he said.

The picture appears far more serious in some areas.

The West Bank and Gaza, turned into economic satellites of Israel, are net importers from Israel and residents say they are paying dearly for the revolt.

The chamber of commerce said Israel exported \$1.2 billion worth of goods and services to the territories in 1987, compared with \$1 billion worth of imports, 70 per cent of which were wages earned by Palestinians in Israel.

Bare necessities

One resident of Ramallah in the West Bank said: "Almost all families depend on Israel for a living. Many families are fast running out of money and are now buying the bare necessities as they don't see an end to the uprising."

Palestinian merchants, who have joined prolonged business strikes since December, say the luxury goods market is all but dead as people have been stocking up on food, anticipating a prolonged struggle.

A resident of Gaza, whose poverty-stricken refugee camps virtually live on remittances from Israel, said people initially thought the struggle would end after several weeks but now saw at least several more months of clashes ahead.

"We are used to the hard life here and many people have the experience on living on nothing but dry bread."

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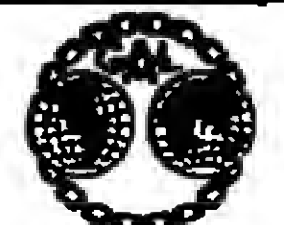
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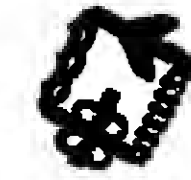
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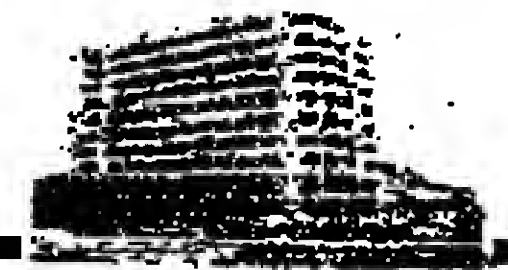
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Hopes to normalise relations with U.S.

Panama's new cabinet begins to tackle crisis

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) — The nation's civilian chief executive met with new cabinet members and other advisers Monday in a renewed effort to find a way to resolve a steadily deteriorating financial and political crisis.

Pledging to keep the nation on a capitalist course, Manuel Solis Palma named seven new ministers to his 12-member cabinet Sunday night, three of them to sensitive foreign and economic policy posts.

He said the chief task of his new team would be to reopen the nation's banks, closed since March 4 because of a lack of money to cover withdrawals by panicky depositors. He said he hoped that could be done within a week.

Several diplomats and other observers, insisting on anonymity, described the new appointees as technocrats without sharply defined political leanings.

Apparently seeking to still opposition fears, Solis Palma, considered a leftist, said he had no plans to interfere with private business or industry or to put Panama on a socialistic path.

The first task of his new education minister, Solis Palma joked,

would be to dismantle what he called the "national council of rumours." It had been widely rumoured that his new appointees would be leftist ideologues.

"We are a capitalist group being attacked by other capitalists," Solis Palma told a news conference shortly after introducing his new cabinet members.

He also rejected earlier descriptions in state-run newspapers of his new government team as a "war cabinet."

Solis Palma said he remained willing to talk with opponents, but not if they persist in demanding the prior resignation of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the military strongman generally recognised as Panama's de facto leader.

Solis Palma also said Mexico is preparing to send petroleum, some raw materials and possibly medicine to help economically pressed Panama. It would be the first such agreement since the start of the crisis.

The new ministers replace officials Solis Palma inherited when he was named to replace deposed president Eric Arturo Delvalle.

Meanwhile, at the United Nations, Panama's new foreign minister said that his top priority would be normalising relations with the United States and persuading it to lift crippling economic sanctions on his country.

Jorge E. Ritter, Panamanian ambassador to the United Nations for the past 14 months, also said Noriega's departure will not

solve Panama's problems unless it comes about as part of a "dialogue" with the opposition.

"Let's suppose Gen. Noriega would leave today," Ritter said in an interview. "Would banks open immediately? No. Would all the private companies go back in business? No. Would all the people who lost their jobs because the U.S. froze Panamanian assets get their jobs back? No."

Ritter said he uncertain how to go about mending relations with the United States.

Ritter, who replaces Jorge Abadía as foreign minister, was to return to Panama Tuesday. It's not in the interest of the United States or Panama to keep this awkward relationship for long," he said.

Ritter said he is uncertain how to go about mending relations with the United States.

"We have to get together and talk about it, but it's a very complicated thing," Ritter said. "I myself don't know exactly what's going to happen."

The new foreign minister urged the opposition to agree to an open-ended "national dialogue" that would include negotiations for Noriega's resignation.

"I think people are missing the point when they think Gen. Noriega's departure is the final solution to Panama's crisis," he said. "We have to speak about the next elections. We have to speak about the press that has been silenced. We have to talk about the future of the economy."

And in Washington, an opposition leader said a group of Panamanian dissidents plans to undertake a military operation against Noriega by the beginning of next week.

S. Africa to oppose bid to reopen 'Six' trial

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African government said Monday it would oppose the reopening of the trial of the Sharpeville Six, five South African men and a woman condemned to hang in connection with a 1964 murder.

Piet Van Zyl, registrar of the supreme court in Pretoria, told Reuters the attorney general's office gave formal notice Monday of its intention to oppose an application to reopen the case.

Prakash Diar, attorney for the six, applied formally last week to have the trial reopened so that he could reexamine Manette and the state said in a routine response Monday that it would fight the application.

Van Zyl said the state move was a standard response. He said the court set May 3 as a provisional date for a hearing on the application, but added that this was likely to be postponed.

"This is all routine manoeuvring," Diar told Reuters. "Once we have their motivation for opposing the application we will have another seven days to respond to that before the actual hearing begins."

Diar said he visited the six on death row last Friday and found them "well under the circumstances."

"They are hopeful, but they don't expect anything, they will wait and see what is to happen to them," Diar said.

Dukakis poised to win in Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Voters in Pennsylvania's presidential primary election appeared likely to give Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis a sweeping victory on Tuesday over black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson for the Democratic nomination.

At the same time Vice-President George Bush was expected to finally secure the Republican nomination by gaining more than the number of delegates he needs to clinch it at the party's convention.

Opinion polls showed Dukakis holding a large lead over the black activist who is his only rival, and Dukakis supporters said their greatest fear was apathy.

Bush set to clinch it. Bush, with only token opposition from religious broadcaster and businessman Pat Robertson, should easily top the 1,139 delegates needed to secure his party's nomination.

He now has 1,097 delegate votes, according to estimates by the NBC Television Network, and should have no trouble winning the 96 delegates at stake in Pennsylvania.

Dukakis has campaigned non-stop with a message that he can return jobs to steel and other U.S. industries suffering hard times, particularly in Pennsylvania. He has sent workers through the state distributing campaign literature and urging that they vote for the 178 nominating delegates at stake.

Similarly, Jackson sent cars with loudspeakers urging a vote for their man through the streets of Philadelphia.

Dukakis campaigned with a "good jobs, good wages," message as he criss-crossed the state's towns where steel mills now sit idle.

As the son of Greek immigrants, he was expected to appeal to the large number of voters of Slav and Polish descent in a state where blacks make up about 15 per cent of the vote.

An opinion poll released Monday night by Philadelphia station KYW-TV showed Dukakis leading Jackson 57 to 31 per cent statewide.

Jackson has narrowed the gap only slightly since the survey last week showed Dukakis leading him by 31 percentage points.

The poll showed Jackson winning the city of Philadelphia, which has a large black population.

Party leaders say Dukakis is in an excellent position to win the remaining major primaries, ending with New Jersey and California on June 7.

He now leads Jackson by 1,065 to 859 delegates, with 2,082 needed to win at the Democratic convention in Atlanta in July.

Following Pennsylvania, primaries will be held in Indiana, Ohio and the District of Columbia on May 3.

Court to reconsider key civil rights ruling

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Supreme Court has caused an uproar among civil rights groups by deciding to reconsider a key ruling giving blacks the same rights as whites in private jobs and other private activities.

The nation's high court, in a 5-4 vote, said Monday it would consider overturning its 1976 decision that has been one of its most important civil rights rulings giving blacks equality with whites.

The 12-year-old decision upheld a well-established post-Civil War law which prohibited racial discrimination in all private contracts. It called for stiff penalties for violators, including the payment of punitive damages.

The law covers a wide range of private activities, including employment, housing and education, and offers broader protection than more recently enacted civil rights measures.

The court could decide to declare the law unconstitutional.

Justice Anthony Kennedy,

newly appointed to the bench by President Reagan, provided the pivotal fifth vote for the conservative bloc members who wanted to review the 1976 ruling.

The Supreme Court has been deadlocked for years between liberal and conservative factions on civil rights cases and the Reagan administration's controversial drive against affirmative action programme for women and minorities.

Civil rights groups denounced the Supreme Court's action to order re-argument, noting that not even the parties in the case had asked that the 1976 decision be overturned.

The case involved a black woman, Brenda Patterson, who sought punitive damages from her employer for alleged on-the-job racial harassment at a credit union in North Carolina.

Ira Glasser, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said: "It shows that the Supreme Court, with its new justice, is open to do business on

established civil rights matters. It shows a hostility toward settled principles of civil rights law."

Lawyers at the NAACP Legal Defence Fund, which is involved in the case, expressed surprise that the Supreme Court would review a call for increased civil rights enforcement.

'At a loss'

The decision to review the case also stirred angry dissent by some of the justices and brought into the open the sharp differences on the bench.

"I am at a loss to understand the motivation of five members of this court to reconsider an interpretation of a civil rights statute that so clearly reflects our society's earnest commitment to ending racial discrimination," Justice Harry Blackmun said.

Justice John Paul Stevens warned that the majority's action would rouse concern among those who must rely on the federal civil rights laws for protection against private discrimination.

Contras threaten to end talks if aid not delivered

MIAMI (AP) — A contra leader threatened Monday to end upcoming peace talks unless the Sandinistas immediately allow the U.S. humanitarian aid to reach the guerrillas.

Contra director Adolfo Calero said the truce arrangement reached last month in Sapoa, Nicaragua, would be in danger if the Sandinistas continue to block food and medical supplies to rebel troops inside that Central American country.

Calero also acknowledged the contents of an April 10 internal contra memo obtained by the Associated Press.

His forces' position was "difficult," Calero said, adding that immediate delivery of food and humanitarian supplies must be the first priority in the talks scheduled to begin Thursday in Managua.

The internal memo written by

the contra field officer known as Commander Johnson said "We urgently need that humanitarian-type aid be permitted to the troops, who are in a critical situation."

"We must reach an agreement on that," said Calero. "If that is not done, the whole Sapoa agreement will collapse."

He said the contras have three private U.S. companies available to rush the supplies to Nicaragua as soon as the Sandinistas agree. Some of the aid approved by Congress was already on its way to refugee camps on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, he added.

Meanwhile, in preparation for Thursday's top-level negotiations in Nicaragua, Sandinista Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Tinoco arrived secretly in Miami to discuss "the agenda and arrangements" for the talks, Calero confirmed.

U.S. rejects Soviet proposal

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. defence officials Monday rejected a Soviet proposal that the United States and Soviet Union limit their naval forces in the Mediterranean to 15 warships and 10 support vessels each.

Monday's proposal by Fleet Admiral Vladimir Chernavin, reported by the Soviet News Agency TASS, expanded on a three-point plan announced by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev in March to ease tensions in what he called an explosive region.

"We are not going to limit our forces in the Med or let the Soviet Union dictate NATO policy," U.S. Defence Department Spokesman Dan Howard told Reuters.

Paul Newman's 'cottage joke' becomes serious philanthropy

By Eilan Cates
Reuter

WESTPORT, Connecticut — The customers' letters come at a steady clip to the tiny headquarters of Newman's Own Inc.

The thousands that have accumulated are an odd assortment of fan mail, love notes, photos and pleas for cash — not the sort of mail one would expect to find at a fast-growing international food company.

But then, Newman's Own Inc., maker of premium-priced salad dressing, spaghetti sauce, popcorn and lemonade, is not like other companies. It breaks all the rules of American business and gives away its profits.

It began five years ago as a lark for film star Paul Newman and his neighbour, author A.E. Hotchner.

"We'd never run a business before," said Hotchner, the renowned Hemingway biographer. "We didn't even run our own lives much."

It was a "cottage joke," as Newman dubbed it, when the actor decided the salad dressing he whipped up at home tasted better than anything he could buy.

Newman's goal was to convince the gourmet shops in his hometown of Westport, Connecticut, to stock a few bottles of the dressing he took such pride in.

The salad dressing was in such demand that they were taken on by a national food brokerage company.

60m in retail sales

Today, Newman's Own Inc. is fast becoming a food empire with new products each year and sales throughout the United States, Europe, Scandinavia, the Far East and Australia. Last year, the company racked up \$60 million in retail sales here and abroad.

But what makes this off-beat company most extraordinary is that Newman and Hotchner, neither of whom takes a salary, give all its profits to charity.

"It's a wacky business," Hotchner said. "It's a profit-making corporation that is not taking any profit. As far as I know we're the only company set up this way."

To date, Newman's Own Inc. has given away \$15 million to organisations.

Newman's latest charitable endeavour is a 300-acre (120 hectare) summer camp for children with life-threatening illnesses. It is scheduled to open in June in Connecticut.

By breaking rules, Newman



Paul Newman: The face which adorns salad dressing bottles as well as the screen (File photo)

and Hotchner have made the company a smashing success. As it grows, they are determined to keep it unorthodox.

The message is clear on a tour of company headquarters in Westport. A beach umbrella sprouts from Newman's desk.

Conferences are held around a ping-pong table. The motto above it says, "If we ever have a pain, we're screwed."

The company does no advertising, Hotchner said, because it would cut into the money for charity. But its labels are a powerful selling tool: Paul Newman's face adorns each product.

"Women are still so crazy about Paul, I think that's why they first buy our products," said Ursula Hotchner, the author's wife, who runs the firm's day-to-day operation.

"Then they find out our products are all-natural, they like them, and they know the money goes to charity," she said.

'I love you even more'

A file cabinet full of letters back up her theory. "Now your beaming face shines forth from our kitchen cabinets," one woman wrote Newman after trying his spaghetti sauce.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, actress Joanne Woodward, married to Newman for 30 years, summed up the camp as Newman's "best idea — probably the one he's had in a long time and he's had many."

Walls come tumbling down

BERLIN (AP) — Part of the original Berlin Wall collapsed into the French section of West Berlin, police said Monday. Police said the 16-metre section of the wall that forms the boundary between Communist East Berlin and West Berlin fell into the western Reinickendorf district, which is under French military control. East Germany had already built a new, four-metre-high wall of reinforced concrete behind the crumbling brick barrier, West Berlin police said. Most of the original barriers built to prevent East Germans from fleeing to the West have been replaced by new concrete walls and steel fences.

Seems juries like nice teeth

DECATUR, Georgia (AP) — A jury was chosen Monday for the retrial of a man charged in the killings of six members of a farm family in 1973, and a defence lawyer then asked that his client be fitted for dentures to improve his image. Judge Hugh Lawson heard the petition on behalf of defendant Wayne Carl Coleman and said he would rule later on that and another defence request that the trial be moved. "We think he will present a less favourable image to this jury" without the dentures, argued Coleman's attorney, Thomas West.

Cracking down on kinky calls

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court, confronted with its first "dial-a-porn" case, Monday let stand a ban on sexually explicit telephone dial-up message services in Arizona. The court was confronted for the first time with the constitutionality of attempts to ban companies from offering sexually explicit dial-up telephone messages. The justices, without comment, refused to hear arguments that the ban in the state of Arizona violates free-speech rights. Mountain Bell, the telephone company for Arizona, in 1985 announced a policy banning all firms who "provide adult entertainment messages with sexually oriented content" from using special phone numbers that levy a extra charge on the caller. The charges vary from 50 cents to several dollars per minute. Most messages are prerecorded, but some companies have operators who talk to customers. The court's action comes at a time when Congress, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and state governments have taken steps to crack down on dial-a-porn companies. Congress last week sent to the president a bill that would ban all dial-a-porn services. The FCC last week levied \$600,000 in fines against two California dial-a-porn firms accused of failing to prevent children from hearing their messages.

Heroic bird succumbs to teflon fumes

BOULDER, Colorado (AP) — An African gray parrot alerted her owner by calling out his name when a teflon-coated pan caught fire, but died from the fumes after the fire was put out. Chris Barnes, a college student, said 7-year-old Coco died exactly one year after his mother gave him the bird as a birthday gift. Barnes, 21, who shares a house with five other students in Boulder, said one roommate left a pot of water on the stove early Saturday that boiled away when the roommate fell asleep. He said he heard Coco screaming, then calling his name. He got up and found the kitchen filled with smoke and the teflon lining of the pot aflame. Barnes said he put out the fire and Coco, nearby, appeared all right. Minutes later, he said, he found Coco dead in her cage. Coco, valued at \$1,000, could whistle the theme from the movie "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly," and had a life expectancy of more than 100 years. Veterinarian William Dornell said Coco's death is typical of other bird deaths involving teflon cookware. He said an Illinois veterinarian has found that burning teflon on cookware can release noxious fumes that cause respiratory arrest in birds. "It doesn't take much," Dornell said.

Monkey drunk

SAFED, Israel (R) — A monkey who had a few cocktails too many went berserk in an Israeli hotel and was detained briefly by police. Police said his owner, who bought the rounds and shared them with the pet, was also briefly held for drunken behaviour.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Britain announces go-ahead for 4-nation fighter

LONDON (AP) — Britain said Monday it would proceed with the four-nation European fighter aircraft, an ambitious example of the kind of defence collaboration among the Western allies that has proved difficult in the past. British officials expect defence ministers from West Germany, Spain and Italy to ratify the project at a May 11 meeting in Hanover, West Germany. The first of the 800 aircraft in the £20-billion (\$37.4-billion) project are to come into service in 1996. British Defence Secretary George Younger, in a statement to parliament, said London's decision depended on agreement by the three other countries, adding he expected their announcements "shortly."

50,000 blacks in white Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG (R) — About 50,000 black South Africans have moved into areas of Johannesburg designated for whites in the past two years in defiance of apartheid race laws, an anti-segregation group said Monday. The influx has been caused by housing shortages in black areas and by people determined to dismantle the apartheid law, the Group Areas Act, which decrees where people live according to their skin colour, the organisation said. The organisation, called Actstop, called a news conference to publicise the plight of blacks who move into Johannesburg. Because of their illegal status, many blacks live in uncertain and persecuted existence, Actstop said in a statement. They are charged higher rents than whites and are often evicted at a moment's notice. The blacks live in so-called "grey areas," an arc of neighbourhoods around central Johannesburg whose populations have gradually become racially mixed.

Soviet Union preparing law on glasnost

VIENNA (R) — The Soviet Union is drafting new laws to guarantee continuation of Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reform policies, two Soviet officials said Monday. Yelena Lukashova, a jurist with the Institute of State and Law of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, told a news conference in Vienna that a law to strengthen glasnost (openness) had been prepared by the institute and submitted to the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet. It would guarantee that work of all state institutions will be accessible to all citizens and give them the right "to know about any event in the state or in the world," she said. It would also grant citizens the right to freely express opinions and learn how the state had responded to proposals they might have made. Fyodor Burlatsky, head of the Soviet Union's Commission on Human Rights, said the law on glasnost was being prepared together with a law governing the media. "This law (on glasnost) should be one of the guarantees of the irreversibility of perestroika," he said of the national reconstruction process promoted by Gorbachev.

Dole, Byrd squabble over INF approval

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republican leader Bob Dole urged the Senate Monday to ratify the U.S.-Soviet medium-range missile treaty before next month's Moscow summit. He appealed to senators to avoid "leaping into positions adversarial to our president." But his Democratic rival, Senate Majority leader Robert Byrd, told Dole: "I will not be rushed or hurried." Byrd vowed not to schedule debate on the treaty until outstanding issues have been dealt with, including determining whether or not the Soviet Union agrees that the pact bans such "Star Wars" weapons as those using laser beams or particle beam generators. President Ronald Reagan has said he will be hamstringing during his meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and unable to make further arms control progress if the Senate has not ratified the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) accord by that time. The summit is scheduled for May 29-June 2. Dole said the president deserves to be accommodated. Byrd replied: "I want to accommodate the president too and I will accommodate the Senate and our responsibilities under the Constitution first, before any other person or office. And the people down at the White House had better understand that."

Zhao says Tibetan separatists will fail

PEKING (AP) — Chinese Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang said Monday in a reference to Tibet that China will deal forcefully with separatist movements, which he said are doomed to failure. "Nowadays, a very small number of people are attempting to split our motherland," Zhao said at a conference of 4,000 people representing China's 56 nationalities. "It is not difficult to see that they are not representing the interests of our people, and they are only the agents of some anti-Chinese foreign forces. Their vain attempt of splitting China cannot possibly be realised." Buddhist monks loyal to Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, led pro-independence riots in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa last September and October and again March 5.

New unit to deal with nuclear emergencies

MOSCOW (AP) — The government has formed a new organisation to deactivate aging Soviet nuclear power reactors and tackle emergencies such as the accident two years ago at the Chernobyl station. The organisation, called Spetsatom, is based in Pripyat, a town five kilometres from the Chernobyl plant in the Soviet Republic of the Ukraine, the news agency TASS reported Monday. Spetsatom is to handle the mothballing of 20 Soviet nuclear plants. TASS said Spetsatom got experience dealing with nuclear accidents in the April 26, 1986, explosion and fire at Chernobyl. "As a result of this tragedy we have acquired vast experience which no other country has," Yuri K. Semynov, deputy head of the commission grappling with the Chernobyl aftermath, told a news conference last Wednesday.